Monday, May 4, 2026 No 123 ₹7

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Blast, protests mark 3 yrs of Manipur conflict

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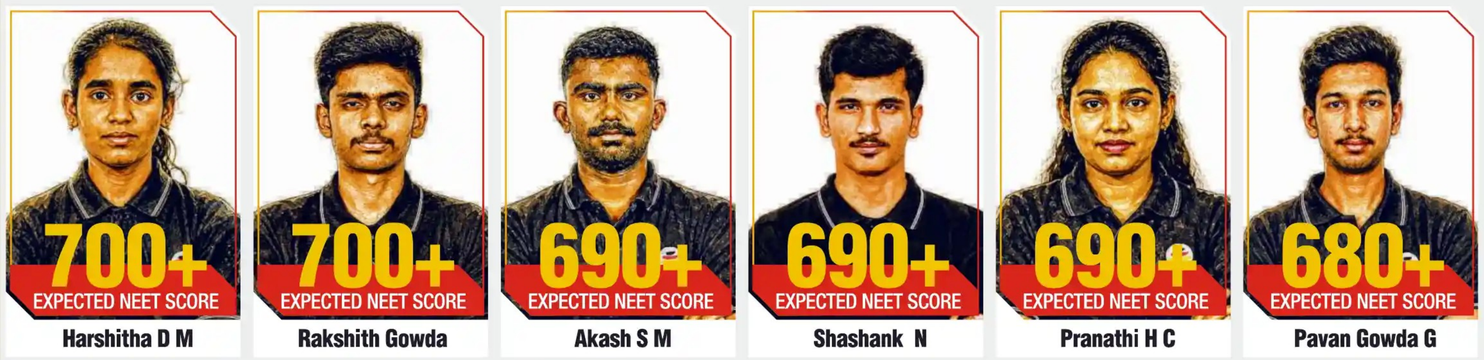

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Misinformation: Kashmir's viral trap fuels familiar security threat

Agencies warn Valley's digital space is vulnerable to cross-border manipulation

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

In Kashmir, the battle for control is no longer confined to the ground — it is increasingly being fought in the digital space, where misinformation can travel faster than facts and, at times, trigger real-world consequences.

A single unverified video or misleading caption can spread across the Valley within minutes, shaping perception, fuelling anger and complicating the state's efforts to maintain order.

Security agencies warn that this information space remains vulnerable to manipulation by anti-national elements and handlers operating from across the border.

Security agencies point out that this pattern has deep roots. During the 2010 Kashmir unrest, rumours and exaggerated accounts played a major role in mobilising protests across the Valley.

Similarly, after the killing of militant commander Burhan Wani in 2016, social media platforms were flooded with videos, messages and imagery that helped sustain months of unrest, often shaping public sentiment.

Officials say the methods have since evolved, but the objective remains unchanged.

According to security officials, separatist networks and their handlers across the border have historically relied on information flows — first through word of mouth and pamphlets, and now through digital platforms — to incite unrest.

Today, they say, social media provides a faster and far more powerful tool to circulate misleading or selectively framed content.

Digital sparks
Separatist networks evolve from pamphlets to platforms
SOCIAL MEDIA ACCELERATES MISLEADING NARRATIVES
Viral content quickly turns political or communal
Influencer-led 'news' outpaces traditional reporting
Provocative captions shape perception before verification

While misinformation is a nationwide issue, its impact in Kashmir is far more serious. Here, viral content can quickly acquire political or communal colour, leaving little room for verification before it begins influencing public behaviour.

Influencer effect

Compounding this challenge is the rise of influencer-led "news".

Local social media pages, particularly on Instagram and Facebook, have emerged as fast-moving sources of updates. Their speed often outpaces traditional journalism. However, these platforms operate without editorial oversight or accountability.

A short clip with a provocative caption can instantly shape public perception. By the time verification comes from official sources or credible media, the initial narrative has often spread widely.

Recognising the risks, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have repeatedly issued advisories urging citizens to exercise caution.

Journalists say the changing information landscape is also affecting professional reporting.

"There has to be accountability for those misusing social media in the name of journalism. But at the same time, genuine journalists must be allowed to operate freely," says senior journalist and Press Club of Kashmir president Salim Pandit.

On the ground, reporters describe a growing imbalance where unverified sources dominate the early narrative cycle.

"Unverified pages push out content instantly, and that becomes the accepted version. By the time facts are established, it is often too late to fully correct the perception," says a local journalist, requesting anonymity.

Officials acknowledge that the speed of digital platforms poses a structural challenge. Verification takes time; virality does not.

In a region where narratives have historically been used to engineer unrest, the battle against misinformation is no longer just about truth — it is an integral part of maintaining security and sovereignty.

Pune horror: Kin urge no political visits till justice for 4-year-old

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Even as protests continued in Nasrapur at Bhor in the Pune district, where a four-year-old girl was raped and killed by a 65-year-old man on Friday, the victim's family made it clear that no politician should visit their house until the accused is hanged to death, even as the Opposition demanded the implementation of the Shakti Act.

The accused, Bhimrao Kambale, has been booked under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).

On Sunday, the girl's father said in a video statement: "My family and I have only one request: until our daughter gets justice and the inhuman is hanged to death, no politician should come to our home to meet us. This is our humble request. Only when that criminal is given the death penalty will we meet politicians or anyone who wishes to meet us. Until then, no politician should come to my house to offer condolences."

Given the seriousness of the incident, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, also the state home minister, spoke to the victim's father twice in two days.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi exchanges mementos with a Myanmar Navy official in Yangon. PTI

Admiral Tripathi visits Myanmar, pushes bilateral naval ties

NEW DELHI, PTI: Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi embarked on a Myanmar Navy warship and held talks with senior military leadership, aiming to bolster bilateral maritime cooperation during his ongoing visit to the neighbouring nation.

Admiral Tripathi also visited Myanmar's Naval Training Command where he formally handed over some military hardware including containerised small arms simulator and 'rigid inflatable boat', according to Indian Navy.

The Navy chief began his four-day trip to Myanmar on Saturday with an aim to enhance operational-level cooperation between the two navies and explore new avenues for collaboration.

Myanmar is one of India's key strategic neighbours and it shares a 1,640-kilometer-long border with several northeastern states including militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.

Kerala IAS officer suspended for criticising govt

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Another IAS officer in Kerala has been suspended for making statements in the media against the government.

N Prasanth, a 2007-batch IAS officer already under suspension for social media posts criticising incumbent chief secretary A Jayathilak, was again suspended on Saturday. Recently, B Ashok, another IAS officer, was also suspended for making statements in the media without government permission.

Blast, protest as Manipur marks 3 yrs of conflict

IED explosion near Imphal airport rekindles fear

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A low-intensity bomb blast near Imphal airport and protests by Meitei and Kuki organisations reignited fear and anger in Manipur as the conflict marked three years on Sunday.

More than 270 people have died since the violence erupted on May 3, 2023, keeping the state on edge despite nearly a year of President's Rule until February 4 and heavy deployment of central security forces.

Panic gripped the state capital on Sunday when a low-intensity IED planted on a motorcycle exploded around noon. No injuries were reported.

Meitei organisations took out a procession and organised a "public convention" in Imphal, in which they slammed the government's role in finding a solution to the conflict while reiterating their demand for cracking down on the "Kuki narco terrorists" and "Chin Kuki illegal migrants" from neighbouring Myanmar.

Kuki Inpi Manipur, an apex body of the Kuki, reaffirmed its demand for a Union Territory with a legislature as the only solution to end the conflict.

"The Kuki-Zo people have endured immense suffering and can no longer be forced to exist under conditions that deny them dignity, justice, and constitutional safeguards," the organisation said in a statement on Sunday.

Kuki armed groups under the Suspension of Operations agreement, which resumed talks with the government on Friday, also told the Centre that returning to the pre-2023 status was not possible for the Kuki-Zo communities.

Meanwhile, the Co-ordination Committee on Manipur Unity (COCOMI), an apex body of Valley-based organisations, held a "public convention" in Imphal on Sunday and passed several resolutions to end the conflict. It demanded a crackdown on "Kuki narco-terrorists", abrogation of the agreement with Kuki armed groups, implementation of the NRC, and measures for resettling internally displaced persons who fled their homes due to the violence.

Emotions poured onto the streets of Bishnupur, a Meitei-dominated district, as the last rites of two Meitei children were performed on Sunday. The children of a BSF personnel, one just five months old, were killed in an attack allegedly by Kuki groups on April 7, triggering fresh tension in the Valley.

Ethnic strife
Over 270 killed since May 2023 violence
Last rites of two Meitei children trigger fresh tension
Meitei groups demand crackdown on 'narco terrorists'
Kuki-Zo groups reject return to pre-2023 status
COCOMI convention seeks resettlement of displaced people

Himanta vs Gaurav: Assam awaits verdict on clash of narratives

GUWAHATI, DHNS

Monday's verdict will vindicate the dominance of either the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led BJP or the Opposition camp led by the Congress' Gaurav Gogoi in Assam. It will also put its seal on the contrasting narratives that the two parties pressed hard during campaigning.

While Sarma tried hard to project the elections as a fight for the indigenous communities' and Sanatani Hindus' dominance over "Bangladeshi infiltrators", the Gaurav-led Opposition camp called it a battle to establish a "Notun Bor Axom" (new greater Assam) — one with unity and harmony.

Months ahead of the elections, the Sarma government intensified the drive to evict Bengali-speaking Muslims from forests and government land, and took the "push back" route as a "fast-track" solution to Assam's long-pending foreigner problem. The Congress, on the other hand, promised to give the land back to the eviction victims and called the BJP's tactics "divisive".

Security personnel of Assam Police stand guard outside a strong room on the eve of counting of votes for the Assam Assembly elections, in Tezpur, Sonitpur district, on Sunday. PTI

ASSAM
Assembly Poll

Upbeat over the exit polls predicting a clear mandate, the BJP and its allies on Sunday exuded confidence that the NDA would form the government for the third straight term with a "historic mandate" and a three-digit toll in the 126-member Assembly. "Tomorrow, Assam will certainly give a historic mandate in favour of BJP-NDA," said Assam BJP chief Dilip Saikia on Sunday.

The BJP is contesting 89 seats, while its allies, the Asom Gana Parishad and the Bodoland People's Front, have put up candidates in 26 and 11 seats, respectively. The verdict will also put a seal on the leadership and election strategy of Sarma, who is seeking the mandate as the CM for a second term.

Undeterred by the exit poll predictions, Gaurav claimed that a strong undercurrent against Sarma and the BJP government's "dictatorial style" would lead the Opposition alliance's bounce-back to power after 10 years.

"People are fed up with Sarma's divisive and communal politics and the way his family is creating wealth across Assam. The response we got during the polls makes us confident about forming the government," he told reporters after a review meeting on Saturday.

With Gaurav at the helm, the Congress rejigged its alliance by severing ties with the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF and joining hands with two small regional parties — the Raijor Dal and the Assam Jatiya Parishad — to counter the BJP's charge of it being a "pro-Muslim" party.

EC deploys 432 counting observers across West Bengal

KOLKATA, PTI: The Election Commission has deployed 432 counting observers (COs) across all the 294 Assembly constituencies in West Bengal to ensure transparent counting of votes on Monday.

While North 24 Parganas district has been allocated 49 observers for its 33 constituencies, South 24 Parganas has 45 observers for 31 seats.

Murshidabad has been assigned 33 observers for 22 constituencies, reflecting heightened monitoring arrangements.

In districts such as Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Uttar Dinajpur, each constituency has been provided with an additional observer in view of their sensitivity and electoral significance.

Meanwhile, enforcement agencies have carried out extensive seizure drives from February 26 to May 2 to curb illegal inducements and the total value of seizures stands at approximately Rs 561 crore, the statement said.

'Modishree', 'Joy Bangla' desserts flavour Bengal's result day anticipation

KOLKATA, PTI: Fish, jhalmuri and regional identity became unlikely symbols in the TMC-BJP fight for over a month. With Bengal now all agog for the EVMs to open on Monday, the state looks to cap off the bitterly fought battle with sweets drenched in the hues of every political party.

From saffron-coloured "Modishree" and "Joy Bangla" confection dyed in the Trinamool Congress' green to rose-flavoured red sweet christened "Lal Salam" of the Left, confectioners across the West Bengal capital are now ready for brisk business, dishing out desserts that fit the occasion.

Kolkata-based sweetmakers said orders and inquiries from party workers and supporters have already started pouring in as anticipation builds over whether Bengal will witness a change of guard or the incumbent will continue to rule.

At the iconic K C Das and Nobin Chandra Das sweetmeat outlets, there is frenzied activity, as confectioners race against time to prepare huge quantities of rosogollas and rajbhogs dyed to the colours of each political party.

Workers prepare green mango rosogollas at a sweet factory on the eve of the declaration of West Bengal Assembly election results in Suri, Birbhum district, on Sunday. PTI

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

"The saffron-coloured kesar-flavoured sandesh has been named 'Modishree', inspired by PM Narendra Modi tasting the sweet during his last visit to Kolkata for an election campaign," Dhiman Das, the director of the firm that runs outlets of both brands, said.

Its green variant with gondhoraj (a version of lime) flavour linked to the Trinamool Congress has been christened "Joy Bangla", the rallying cry of the ruling party, he said.

Das said the outlets would largely prepare rosogolla and rajbhog varieties, while several other confectioners are preparing customised sandesh carrying party colours and symbols.

"We are initially making around 500 pieces each of green, orange and red velvet rosogollas. Supplies will be altered depending on the demand and trend on the counting day," he said.

IAS coaching director held captive, robbed of Rs 1.89 cr in MP

BHOPAL, PTI: The Crime Branch in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal has arrested six people for allegedly robbing an IAS coaching institute director of Rs 1.89 crore at gunpoint after holding her captive for two days, an official said on Sunday.

A police statement said the accused lured Shubhra Ranjan, director of a Delhi-based IAS academy, to Bhopal on Wednesday under the pretext of opening a new centre and organising a seminar.

"They invited her to a rented house, held her hostage using armed accomplices, and forced the transfer of Rs 1.89 crore into various bank accounts under threat to life. The accused organised a Sundarkand recital at the place to ensure the victim's call for help would not be heard," it said.

Former student held

The main conspirator is Priyank Sharma, a former student of the victim's institute, while the other accused are from Datia and Rewa, it added.

Incidentally, Priyank admitted himself to AIIMS Bhopal, citing illness to evade arrest on Sunday. He was arrested from the hospital, where his mother and wife created a ruckus on the premises.," the official said.

The official identified the other arrested accused as Rohit Malviya, Deepak Bhagat, Vikas alias Vicky Dahiya, Kunal Yadav and Pankaj Ahirwar.

Centre plans Rs 37,500-cr push for coal gasification projects

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre is set to approve a Rs 37,500-crore incentive scheme to promote coal and lignite gasification projects with the aim of reducing India's dependence on imported LNG, urea, ammonia and other critical hydrocarbons.

The unified scheme, prepared by the Coal Ministry, will provide a maximum financial incentive of up to Rs 3,000 crore per project. This is a substantial increase from the earlier scheme, which offered a maximum of Rs 1,000 crore for private sector projects and Rs 1,350 crore for public sector undertakings.

Domestic production

The initiative seeks to accelerate domestic production of fuels and chemicals by converting India's vast coal reserves—estimated at 401 billion tonnes—into valuable products such as syngas, methanol, dimethyl ether (DME), urea, ammonium nitrate, ammonia and direct reduced iron (DRI).

It is also intended to help achieve the national target of 100 million tonnes of coal gasification capacity by 2030.

Recent conflicts in West Asia have exposed vulnerabilities in India's LNG, LPG and hydrocarbon supply chains. In response, the government is positioning coal gasification as a strategic tool to diversify energy feedstocks, enhance self-reliance and strengthen energy security against global disruptions.

Coal gasification is a thermochemical process that converts coal or lignite into syngas (a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen) instead of burning it directly.

ORBIT DEBUT

B'luru startup builds largest Indian Earth observation satellite

BENGALURU, DHNS

Local space-tech startup GalaxEye made history on Sunday with the successful launch of "Mission Drishti" — the world's first satellite to combine two different types of powerful sensors on one craft.

The satellite was launched into space on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from California in the US. Weighing 190 kg, it is the largest Earth observation satellite ever built by a private company in India.

It is the first satellite globally to integrate Electro-Optical (EO) and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors into a single operational platform, enabling all-weather, day-and-night imaging capabilities.

What makes this mission unique is its OptoSAR technology. Most satellites use either cameras (optical) or radar for observation. GalaxEye's satellite uses both at the same time. This allows it to take clear pictures of Earth even through thick clouds or in total darkness, solving what was a major problem for traditional satellite imaging.

"This is the result of over five years of hard work," said GalaxEye CEO Suyash Singh. He noted that the company was already seeing interest from around the world for this new kind of data.

The startup was founded in 2021 by five IIT-Madras alumni and is based in Bengaluru. It has grown into a team of 140 people and has raised more than $20 million in funding from major investors, including Infosys.

The satellite will be used for tasks like monitoring borders for defence, maritime monitoring, helping farmers with agriculture and tracking natural disasters.

GalaxEye has also partnered with the government's commercial space arm, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), to sell its imagery globally.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the launch, calling it a testament to the youth's passion for innovation and nation-building.

Congress rides on exit poll verdict, plans celebrations for counting day

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Hope, excitement and ardent prayers to the Almighty marked the eve of the counting day in Kerala on Sunday, with the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), in particular, showing high spirits after the exit poll prediction in its favour.

The exit polls have predicted the return of UDF to power after 10 years. This has instilled high level of confidence in Congress party members. The party has already put up a large *pandal* (temporary shed) in front of Indira Bhavan, the headquarters of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee in Thiruvananthapuram.

The celebratory mood is evident from the arrangements being made.

Hope and high
In Malappuram, Congress-UDF workers plan to prepare biryani for 5,000 people
Cultural programmes will also be organised to celebrate the election victory
A supporter of Ramesh Chennithala offered a prayer service at Parumala church for the leader to become the CM

In Malappuram district, Congress-UDF workers are planning to prepare biryani for at least 5,000 people, said UDF workers of Pandikkad. Cultural programmes will also be organised to celebrate the election victory, they added.

Amid the race for the chief ministerial post in Kerala, AICC general secretary in charge of Kerala Deepa Dasmunshi told reporters that the UDF allies had left the decision on the high command. The usual procedure to finalise a name will be followed, she said.

KERALA
Assembly Poll

Meanwhile, a supporter of Congress senior leader Ramesh Chennithala offered a prayer service at Parumala church in Pathanamthitta for the leader to become the chief minister.

Recently, a supporter of AICC general secretary K C Venugopal offered prayers at a temple in Palakkad.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan offered prayers at the Kollur Sri Mookambika devi temple recently.

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The Power of Good

Gujarat Titans beat Punjab Kings

Sudharsan, Pacers star in 4-wicket victory

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Business

Sun Pharma to unlock new growth platforms with Organon buy P.8

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Rubio to visit Vatican, Rome after Trump row P.10

World

Nepal cancels 'politically motivated' hirings P.10

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SC to hear Darshan's bail plea today P.4

Iran's new proposal seeks to end issues with US in 30 days

Trump says Tehran has 'not yet paid a big enough price'

DUBAI/LAHORE, AGENCIES

Iran's latest proposal to the United States calls for issues between the two countries to be resolved within 30 days and aims to end the war rather than extend the ceasefire, according to Iran's state-linked media.

Iran's foreign ministry said Tehran had submitted a plan "focused on ending the war" and that Washington had already responded to it in a message to Pakistani mediators.

"We are reviewing this and will take whatever response is necessary regarding it," spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei told state television.

Iran's 14-point proposal, a rebuttal to the US nine-point plan, also calls for the US to lift sanctions on Iran, ending the naval blockade, withdrawing forces from the region, and ceasing all hostilities, including Israel's operations in Lebanon, according to the semi-official Nour News agency, which has close ties to the country's security organisations.

US President Donald Trump said that he had yet to review the exact wording of a new Iranian peace proposal but he was unlikely to accept it.

"I will soon be reviewing the plan that Iran has just sent to us, but can't imagine that it would be acceptable in that they have not yet paid a big enough price for what they have done to Humanity, and the World, over the last 47 years," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

A senior Pakistani official said Iran has conveyed a "multi-layered proposal". There are three broad components of it.

"The first component of the plan focuses on urgent de-escalation measures," the official said.

"Secondly, Iran is seeking to decouple the restoration of maritime trade from nuclear negotiations," he said.

The third component concerns "conditional flexibility" on the nuclear front.

A Pakistani source said the proposal includes demands for security guarantees, reflecting concerns in Tehran over the risk of future military action.

An anti-US billboard referring to President Donald Trump and the Strait of Hormuz at the Valiasr Square in Tehran. AFP

CONFLICT LINGERS

Iran's Revolutionary Guards says US faces a choice between an "impossible" military operation or a "bad deal"

- Iran's deputy parliament speaker says Tehran "will not back down from our position on the Strait of Hormuz"
- Israel orders thousands of Lebanese to leave villages in southern Lebanon despite ceasefire
- Trump says US will withdraw more troops from Germany than was previously announced
- A bulk carrier reported being attacked by multiple small craft while transiting west of Iran's Sirik
- Marshall Islands-flagged LPG carrier MT Sarv Shakti carrying LPG sails out of Strait of Hormuz and is headed towards India

Today's results may recast political map

Counting in 4 states, one Union Territory starts at 8 am

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India will know by Monday afternoon whether its political map is set to be redrawn as counting of votes for the high-stakes elections in four states and a Union Territory — West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry — will be held during the day.

The outcome will have a bearing on both the ruling BJP at the Centre and the Opposition — Congress, Trinamool Congress, DMK and the Left — as the results, unlike in the past, could rewrite political equations.

The counting of votes will start at 8 am on Monday.

In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress is confident of a fourth term despite most exit polls giving its rival BJP an edge. A BJP win, a first in Bengal if it manages to cross 148 seats, will come after it managed its first Chief Minister in Bihar a fortnight ago.

For the Trinamool, an emphatic victory will help its leader Mamata Banerjee to assert her space in national politics and demand that the INDIA bloc look at her as its potential face in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. The polls saw the Trinamool in a fight not just against its rival but the Election Commission too.

The results will also be keenly watched by a "pro-active" EC, which deployed an unprecedented number of paramilitary forces after presiding over a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

It also ordered a repoll in the entire Falta constituency later May and hence, Monday's counting will be held for 293 of the 294 seats.

In Tamil Nadu, exit polls have projected MK Stalin-led DMK alliance to romp home in the 234-member Assembly but all eyes will be on the performance of actor Vijay-led TVK, which a pollster predicted could sink the AIADMK-BJP coalition.

If the TVK polls anywhere near 20% votes, a political realignment could be expected in the state, prompting a sulking Congress, which wants power-sharing that the DMK detests, to look beyond its alliance partner.

▸ Results, Page 4

Security personnel stand guard outside a counting centre in Kolkata, West Bengal, on Sunday. PTI

High-stakes battles

State/UT	Total seats	Majority mark	Ruling party	Opposition
West Bengal	294*	148	TMC	BJP
Tamil Nadu	234	118	DMK+	AIADMK+
Kerala	140	71	CPM-led LDF	Cong-led UDF
Assam	126	64	BJP	Congress
Puducherry	30	16	AINRC+	Congress+

*Counting for 293 seats as repolling ordered in Falta Assembly seat

Nine killed in Delhi building fire

NEW DELHI, PTI: A fire ripped through a residential building in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar early Sunday, leaving nine people, including a toddler, from two families dead, officials said.

The incident was reported at 3.48 am at a four-storey building, following which police, fire and disaster management teams rushed to the spot.

The blaze engulfed flats on the second, third and fourth floors, prompting frantic rescue efforts.

With the terrace door locked, the building occupants found it difficult to escape the leaping flames.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

According to the Delhi Fire Service, nine charred bodies were recovered from different parts of the building.

A senior police officer said around 10 to 15 people were rescued.

Govt responsible if anything happens to me: Vinesh

BENGALURU, DHNS: Decorated wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who is all set to make a comeback post her U-turn from retirement last year, said on Sunday that the Indian government should be held responsible if anything untoward happens to her or her team members at the National Open Ranking Tournament in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh.

Releasing a video on X, the 31-year-old wrestler also raised concerns of "biased officiating" by Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) referees.

Raising the issue, she said, the venue has a strong influence of Brij Bhushan Saran Singh, the former WFI president.

"If Vinesh is worried about her safety, let me assure her that I am taking personal guarantee of that. Also, we have UWW-approved referees who officiate and all trial bouts are recorded, so there is no chance of any bias," Sanjay Singh, WFI President.

▸ Vinesh, Page 4

Sringeri recounting: BJP candidate declared winner by margin of 52 votes

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS

In a turnaround of fortunes nearly three years after the 2023 Assembly polls, BJP's D N Jeevaraj, the then runner-up, was on Sunday declared victorious in the Sringeri constituency by a slender margin of 52 votes after a recounting of postal ballots.

The declaration made by the returning officer came a day before the counting of votes for Davangere South and Bagalkot bypolls.

While BJP workers celebrated the outcome, sitting MLA T D Rajegowda of the Congress alleged irregularities. In 2023, he was announced as the winner with a margin of 201 votes.

Following a high court order on the petition filed by Jeevaraj, the recounting of postal ballots took place on Saturday. Tension prevailed during the recount, and it was completed around 3 am on Sunday.

Officials stated that out of the votes previously counted as valid in 2023, 255 votes of Rajegowda were now rejected, while two votes of Jeevaraj were declared invalid.

Election Officer Gaurav Shetty said that out of the 1,822 postal ballots counted in 2023, Jeevaraj had secured 692 votes and Rajegowda 569 votes. After the recount, Jeevaraj's tally stands at 690 votes, while Rajegowda's count has dropped sharply to 314, reflecting a reduction of 255 votes.

"The recount was conducted as per the court's directions. The ballot papers are placed in the strong room. A report on the discrepancies observed after counting has been submitted to the EC," the officer said.

Jeevaraj said he had expected the authorities to issue a certificate. "My vote count has increased while Rajegowda's has decreased. However, no certificate has been issued yet," he said.

▸ Sringeri, Page 4

DKS: Blot on democracy

Reacting to the recounting of votes in Sringeri, Deputy CM and KPCC president D K Shivakumar on Sunday alleged that ballot papers had been tampered with the help of some officials in the constituency. Terming the development as a "serious offence" and a "blot on democracy", he said the Congress would question it in the court.

D N Jeevaraj

Fear of layoffs grips IT industry

BENGALURU, DHNS: Layoff anxiety has gripped the IT workforce for over a year, sharpening in the past six months. "There was a constant fear that an email from HR could land any day. One day, it did. I was called to the office the next morning, completed my exit formalities, and just like that, years of hard work meant nothing." Supriya (name changed), in her late 30s, an operations manager at Amazon Web Services, said.

She brings over 13 years of IT experience from Accenture, Infosys, and HCLTech. She joined Amazon in November 2024. In January 2026, she was impacted in the third round of layoffs.

Details on Page 9

CEREMONIAL POSE

Temple elephants Andal and Lakshmi stand beside the Chithirai chariot as part of the Chithirai festival at the Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple, in Tiruchirappalli, on Sunday. PTI

Mansarovar Yatra: India rejects Nepal's objection

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Sunday trashed Nepal's objection to the conduct of the upcoming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and asserted that such "unilateral artificial enlargement" of territorial claims is "untenable".

"India's position in this regard had been consistent and clear. Lipulekh Pass has been a long standing route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra since 1954," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

New Delhi's sharp reaction came hours after the Nepal foreign ministry issued a statement objecting to India and China making preparations for the pilgrimage.

Details on Page 5

MOBILITY PUSH

Plan for B'luru's longest metro line, with 5-km link to new stadium, is ready

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Namma Metro has completed a feasibility study for building Bengaluru's longest single corridor — a 68-km line linking Kalena Agrahara in the south to Kadugodi Tree Park in the east via the fast-growing tech corridor of Sarjapur — along with a 5-km spur line to the proposed international cricket stadium in Anekal taluk, with two additional stations.

The total length, including the spur, is 73 km.

Karnataka has also shown little enthusiasm for Tamil Nadu's plans to build South India's first interstate metro line between Bommasandra and Hosur.

"The feasibility study for the new line has been prepared by Introsoft Solutions Pvt Ltd. We will submit it to the state in the coming days for further action," an official source told *DH*.

The line was initially proposed to run through Bannerghatta, Jigani, Attibele, Sarjapur, Dommasandra Circle and Varthur Kodi. However, the state later asked the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to add a branch line to the stadium after Jigani.

"One station will come up right next to the stadium to provide direct connectivity. We have proposed another station at Indlavadi to serve the neighbouring villages," the source said. "The corridor will be fully elevated."

Industrialist Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw recently raised concerns about the 80,000-seater stadium, saying it would become a "white elephant" without proper road and metro connectivity.

Last month, the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) floated tenders for the first phase of the 1.21-lakh sqm stadium at a cost of Rs 943 crore.

The state will review the feasibility report before deciding whether to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR).

▸ Metro line, Page 4

73-km metro corridor

Feasibility study done.
State to decide on DPR preparation.

Quickly

Can't seek spouse's income details under RTI Act: Delhi High Court

An individual cannot obtain details of their spouse's income by filing an application under the RTI Act, the Delhi HC has ruled after a wife claimed the information was necessary for the proper adjudication of her maintenance claim.

Details on Page 5

Admiral Tripathi holds talks with Myanmar military leadership

Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi embarked on a Myanmar Navy warship and held talks with senior military leadership, aiming to bolster bilateral maritime cooperation during his ongoing visit to the neighbouring nation.

Canada declares Khalistan extremists 'security threat'

Canada's intelligence agency has declared Khalistani extremists a "national security threat", adding that the group uses institutions to promote its "violent extremist agenda" in the country. The report comes a year after the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Air India Flight 182.

Details on Page 10

SC to hear plea against Transgender Amendment Act

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea challenging the constitutional validity of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026, for replacing the individual's own understanding of their gender or identity with a biological or socio-medical category of the state's choosing.

Mittal family buys 75% stake in RR for over Rs 15k crore

Well-known industrialist Lakshmi N Mittal and his son Aditya Mittal on Sunday announced they have reached a "definitive agreement" to acquire a majority stake in Rajasthan Royals, in partnership with Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and Manoj Badale. The consortium paid approximately Rs 15,600 crore to take acquisition of Rajasthan Royals.

Details on Page 12

Man opens emergency exit, jumps off plane

Passengers on board a Sharjah-Chennai Air Arabia flight experienced harrowing moments on Sunday morning when a 34-year-old man opened the emergency exit door and jumped off the aircraft while it was taxiing at the Chennai Airport.

Details on Page 5

BWSSB collects Rs 12.15 cr under OTS scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has collected Rs 12.15 crore from property owners, terming it a "positive response" to its newly launched One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme.

In a press note, the BWSSB said it had identified 2.81 lakh eligible cases out of 3.73 lakh properties after scrutinising legacy records. It has since prepared 2.12 lakh customised notices to be issued to property owners.

Through the OTS scheme, the BWSSB aims to recover Rs 471.56 crore in principal dues while offering an interest waiver of Rs 252.29 crore, board chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said. He added that Rs 12.15 crore has already been collected from the first batch of 56,765 notices.

The scheme aims to resolve long-pending dues, ease financial stress on consumers, and strengthen the BWSSB's financial position.

BDA to auction 75 sites across key layouts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will auction 75 residential and commercial sites across prominent layouts in the city through an e-auction beginning May 11, according to a public notice.

While some of the sites were recovered from encroachers, others were reclaimed through court proceedings.

As per the notice, the sites are located in areas such as Anjanapura Township, Arkavathy Layout, Banashankari 6th Stage, Kempegowda Layout and Sir M Visvesvaraya Layout, among others.

The BDA will auction the sites on an "as is where is" basis. Interested bidders can register until May 22 (5 pm), with live bidding scheduled in phases on May 25 and 26.

The plots vary in size and price, with base prices ranging from Rs 64,000 per sqm to over Rs 1 lakh per sqm in premium locations. The minimum bid increment has been set at Rs 500 per sqm.

Officials said the auction aims to unlock land value while meeting public demand for residential and commercial sites.

Interested buyers can visit the BDA's official website or call 080-23368435/23368036 for details.

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

New flyover eases Silk Board crawl, Ragigudda jam worsens

Commuters say ramps too narrow for traffic surge

BENGALURU, DHNS

Slow-moving traffic at the down ramp of the double-decker flyover at Ragigudda, where converging vehicles have already created a bottleneck soon after its opening on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

The HSR Layout-Ragigudda flyover, part of the city's first double-decker viaduct, has brought both relief and frustration for commuters since its recent opening.

The flyover was built to help drivers bypass busy signals such as those at Jayadeva Hospital and Udupi Garden. Built on the same pillars as the metro's Yellow Line, it was designed to save space and cut travel time.

At the inauguration on Friday, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and local officials said the model would likely be replicated elsewhere in the city to tackle congestion.

While the flyover bypasses the chaos of Silk Board Junction, commuters find themselves caught in a gridlock the moment they descend. The flyover's exit at Ragigudda leads directly into a traffic signal, causing vehicles to back up onto the elevated structure during peak hours.

Many residents feel the entrance and exit ramps are too narrow to handle the vehicle surge, leading to funnelling issues and accidents.

"What is the point of a world-class double-decker flyover if it ends right at a red light?" questioned Ravikumar S, a commuter. "Engineers seem to have simply shifted the Silk Board traffic jam a few kilometres down the road to JP Nagar. It is basic planning; you do not end a high-speed flyover at a narrow signal."

Some regular commuters say the situation, while not perfect, is an improvement.

"Earlier, we had to wait at every single junction: Kuvempu Nagar, Udupi Garden, Jayadeva and East End. Now, we skip most of those. The wait at Ragigudda is long, but it is still better than the old crawl," said Sunil, a daily commuter.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, South) Gopal M Byakod said traffic patterns would be monitored over the coming days to check if signal timing adjustments at Ragigudda or additional diversions could ease the bottleneck.

"After the flyover opened, average speeds have increased because vehicles now just zoom past. Vehicle users find it odd to get stuck at the Ragigudda signal. We believe that vehicle users will need time to adjust to the new change. We are monitoring the congestion situation and will tweak plans. We are planning some traffic diversions to minimise congestion," he told *DH*.

CITIZENSPEAK

RAVIKUMAR S
Commuter

"What's the point of a world-class double-decker flyover if it ends at a red light? It feels like the Silk Board jam has just been pushed a few kilometres to JP Nagar. You don't end a high-speed corridor at a narrow signal – that's basic planning.

SUNIL
Commuter

"Earlier, we were stuck at every junction – Kuvempu Nagar, Udupi Garden, Jayadeva and East End. Now, we skip most of them. The wait at Ragigudda is still long, but it's far better than the old crawl.

Long weekend over, city entry points buckle under return rush

BENGALURU, DHNS: The long weekend culminated in frustration for many travellers on Sunday as they returned to the city.

Major roads leading into Bengaluru were packed with vehicles, causing long delays at all main entry points. After three days of holidays, including May Day, thousands of people who had gone to their hometowns or tourist spots returned at the same time.

The city's primary arteries, Mysuru Road, Tumakuru Road and Old Madras Road (the KR Puram stretch), saw slow-moving traffic.

Traffic police said the usual evening peak-hour traffic was extended by two to three hours.

On Tumakuru Road, the gateway for over 20 districts, the Nelamangala toll gate became a major congestion point.

"We reached the city outskirts in quick time, but spent nearly 45 minutes just trying to cross the toll and enter the NICE Road Junction," said Ananth S, a commuter returning from Chikkamagaluru.

In the east, the Tin Factory and KR Puram junctions were filled with inter-state buses arriving from Hosur, Chennai and Tirupati. Meanwhile, Goraguntepalya saw traffic stretching past Jalahalli and the 8th Mile.

"While city-centre traffic was reduced by nearly 60% during the peak of the holiday, the return rush usually sees a 20% spike in congestion compared to normal Sundays," a senior traffic police officer said.

Long traffic snarls on Mysuru Road. DH FILE PHOTO

Alert: Monday morning rush

- Police warn of continued congestion into early Monday.
- Peak hours expected between 5 am and 8 am.
- Final wave of travellers returning before the work week.
- Commuters advised to plan ahead and allow extra time.

Woman poisons children to death, attempts suicide

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 26-year-old woman allegedly poisoned her two children to death before attempting suicide following a quarrel with her husband in north Bengaluru, police said on Sunday.

The incident was reported from Mathikere, near Yeshwantpur.

Dispute with husband

Investigations revealed that Pavithra, a homemaker, had an argument with her husband, Prashanth, on Saturday evening. After he briefly stepped out, she allegedly administered poison to the children and consumed it herself.

The next morning, Prashanth found Pavithra and the children — boys aged four and two — unconscious and rushed them to a hospital.

The children were declared brought dead, while Pavithra was admitted to the ICU. Her condition remains critical.

The family hails from Pavagada in Tumakuru district. Police said the couple had been quarrelling frequently over the past few days, though the immediate trigger for the latest dispute is not yet known. A case of murder and attempt to suicide has been registered. Police are questioning Prashanth and recording his statement.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal thoughts, please reach out to 24/7 helplines: KIRAN: 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani: 104)

Man tries to scare son with petrol, both suffer burns

BENGALURU, DHNS: A man's alleged attempt to scare his son using petrol left both with burns, police said on Sunday.

On Saturday night, Anand, a 45-year-old mason from Pragathipura, scolded his 19-year-old son, Mallikarjun, for taking his motorcycle out earlier in the evening.

Mallikarjun said he had gone to a temple, but Anand did not believe him.

When the son returned home, a heated argument broke out, during which Mallikarjun allegedly told his father to "kill him". Enraged, Anand is said to have replied, "I will burn you."

In an attempt to scare him, Anand poured petrol on Mallikarjun. However, the situation escalated when a nearby roadside cooking flame ignited the fuel, setting both on fire.

A neighbour rushed to their aid and doused the flames. Both were taken to hospital, with Mallikarjun sustaining more severe burns.

Kumaraswamy Layout police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

Residents step in to save rain tree from developer's axe

Branch trimming sparked protests; work was halted

BENGALURU, DHNS

A giant rain tree in Cooke Town could come under the axe as a private developer plans to construct a multi-storey building on the site.

The tree, located within private premises, has sparked objections from residents, who say its loss will reduce the green cover.

The developer, however, maintains that the tree has weak roots and poses a danger to life.

Residents point to the city's rising heat, arguing that tree cover plays a crucial role in keeping local temperatures down. They estimate the tree, situated opposite North Cote Apartment on Ashoka Road, to be 50 to 60 years old.

On Saturday, tensions escalated when workers began trimming branches in preparation for felling, prompting residents to intervene and halt the work.

A private developer's plan to build a multi-storey structure in Cooke Town could see this giant rain tree felled. DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

Residents say the tree is healthy and needs only pruning. The developer, however, claims weak roots make it a safety hazard, while an environmentalist warns such 'safety' concerns are often used to justify felling healthy trees.

Residents dispute this claim, insisting the tree is structurally sound.

"The tree is healthy and stands at the corner of the site. It could simply be pruned instead of removed," they said. They also feared the tree was being cut to bypass building setback rules.

Environmentalist DT Devare said some applicants used safety concerns as grounds for removing healthy trees.

"In many cases, this is not accurate. If a tree is large, the corporation is expected to refer the matter to a tree expert committee and the report must be submitted to the court," he said.

The Range Forest Officer of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation did not respond to calls seeking comment.

4 days of rain and wind bring down 476 trees

BENGALURU, DHNS: Four days of heavy winds and rain brought down 476 trees and 1,171 branches across the city, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said.

Large-scale tree falls have become a recurring issue, especially during pre-monsoon showers and monsoon rains, pointing to inadequate pruning and maintenance by civic authorities.

Bengaluru West City Corporation, home to the largest tree cover, reported the highest impact with 169 trees and 534 branches falling.

Bengaluru South City Corporation was the second worst-hit, losing 131 trees and 275 branches.

Bengaluru Central City Corporation reported the loss of 131 trees.

Bengaluru East City Corporation, which did not see much rain, saw minimal damage with six trees and 10 branches falling. The zone is also known for having the least green cover in the city.

Second 'Namma Art Bengaluru' at CKP from May 6-10

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath will host the second edition of Namma Art Bengaluru, a national art fair, from May 6 to 10.

The fair, envisioned as a platform for contemporary and traditional works, will transform the CKP campus into a hub for artists and enthusiasts.

The inaugural function is on Wednesday at 5 pm and will be attended by Geetanjali Vikram Kirloskar, Chairperson and MD of Kirloskar Systems Pvt Ltd; KG Raghavan, Chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Bengaluru Centre; art historian Ashrafi S Bhagat; and art collector Rahul Baswani.

Over 150 artists from across India will exhibit their works in dedicated booths spread across the campus. A centrepiece of the fair is a specially curated exhibition by art historian Lina Vincent, titled 'Mapping Periphery & Centre: A Pan-India dialogue'.

Art enthusiasts at last year's edition of 'Namma Art Bengaluru'. DH FILE PHOTO

On view at four CKP galleries until May 20, the exhibition features works by more than 70 senior master artists. The theme explores the complex relationships between geographical and cultural centres and peripheries through personal mapping, memory, and landscape.

Beyond the exhibition, the fair will host 'Creative Dialogues', a public programme featuring masterclasses and panel discussions from Thursday to Saturday at Gandhi Kuteera.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Lecture: 'Family Values' by Krishnegowda; Organised by Sri Vinayaka Temple Committee; Sri Vinayaka Temple, RT Nagar; 6 pm.

CULTURAL

Dialogue: Film 'From Fields to Flight'; Ipshita Bhattacharya, Babita, Pooja Pandey to attend; Organised by Breakthrough; Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur; 2.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

142nd Brahma Rathotsava of Nagareshwara Swamy: Organised by BASV (Nagartha) Committee; Nagareshwara Swamy Temple, Nagarathpet; 10.30 am.

CITY WEATHER

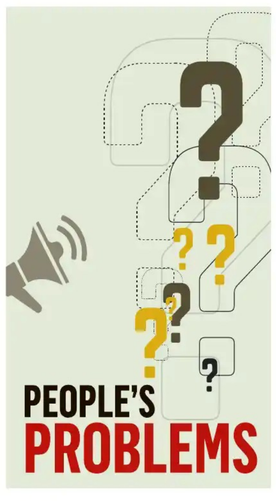
FORECAST

Thunderstorm with rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	35.0°C
Minimum	23.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	37%
Sunset (May 4)	6:35 pm
Sunrise (May 5)	5:58 am
Moonrise	8:03 pm
Moonset	6:46 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD



Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner.
Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @deccanherald.co.in

City degraded? One spell of rain shows cracks

A single spell of rain, lasting barely an hour, has exposed Bengaluru's fragile infrastructure — even claiming lives.

In the past, such chaos was seen only after prolonged heavy rain and strong winds. The latest episode raises questions about whether the city's infrastructure has deteriorated, despite tall claims by the Greater Bengaluru Authority and political leaders.

With the monsoon just a month away, residents are bracing for more disruptions.

Dr Obi Reddy A
HSR Layout

Mantralayam stoppage

It is heartening that the railways plan to introduce a Vande Bharat Express sleeper service between Bengaluru and Mumbai.

I request the authorities to consider a halt at the Mantralayam Road railway station to benefit the thousands of devotees visiting the temple.

CR Srinivas
Vijayanagar

Need more BMTC buses

We, the residents of Arekere's Shantiniketan Layout, need better Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation connectivity to different parts of the city. Frequency is also not up to the mark.

Anand Swamy
Nanjappa Layout, Arekere

PERFORMANCE PRESSURE

Sex enhancement drug use rises among young men; doctors sound the alarm

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

There is a spike in demand for sexual enhancement drugs in the city, especially among men in their 20s and early 30s, doctors say.

A 29-year-old man died recently in Gurugram after an overdose of a sexual enhancement drug.

Doctors say these drugs are mostly consumed without a prescription and any underlying medical condition.

Consultant Urologist Dr Vishal said there was a growing trend among men in their late 20s and early 30s using sex enhancement medications.

"What is notable is that most people who use these medications lack medical conditions like erectile dysfunction. In many cases, these drugs are being used as a confidence booster rather than a medical necessity," Dr Vishal said.

Pointing to the risks of consuming these drugs without supervision, Consultant Urologist and Renal Transplant Surgeon Dr Harsha R said the risk was much higher in men with undiagnosed hypertension, diabetes, obesity, smoking history, or silent heart disease.

"Sexual activity itself places some strain on the heart and combining that with unsupervised drug use can be dangerous. One of the most serious interactions is with nitrate medicines used for chest pain or heart disease. Taking both together can cause a life-threatening fall in blood pressure," he said.

Dr Sandip Deshpande, Psychiatrist and Sexual and Relationship Therapist, said the drugs in no way helped increase the desire to have intercourse or improved the production and quality of sperm.

"It just helps in having an erection. While what men have is good enough, the influence of the internet makes them think that it is not enough, hence, they depend on such alternatives. A comfortable setting and a calm mind is good enough," he said.

Dr Mouryadeep, Consultant Adult Psychiatrist and Sexologist, said there was a significant rise in Sexual Performance Anxiety among men aged 18 to 35.

"Long-term exposure to curated, high-stamina adult content creates a comparison gap. Real-world physiological responses are viewed as failures compared to the infinite stamina portrayed on screen," she added.

"The lifestyle in a high-pressure tech hub is a perfect storm for sexual dysfunction. Chronic cortisol, the stress hormone, actively constricts blood vessels, making erections physically harder to maintain. Long working hours and traffic lead to physical exhaustion, which is the number one silent killer of libido. Many urban professionals work across time zones, which lowers morning testosterone peaks," she added.

Psychologist Dr Sugami Ramesh said frequent use of these drugs carried a risk of physiological dependency.

"Since it becomes habitual, it becomes very difficult for a person to give up those habits of over-dependency. One will lose self-confidence and cognitive skills. It will also worsen natural erectile function due to anxiety," she said.

Rayareddi bats for Siddu, says not right time for CM change

KOPPAL, DHNS: Amid the ongoing speculation on the leadership change in the state, senior Congress legislator and economic advisor to the CM, Basavaraj Rayareddi, asserted that Siddaramaiah will continue as the chief minister for the remaining two-and-a-half years term.

"I am of the view that the Congress leadership will not ask Siddaramaiah to step down for now. If at all they (high command) decide for change of guard in the state, they should take the opinion of the party legislators, and Mallikarjun Kharge should be made CM," Rayareddi told reporters during the inauguration of the Gavimutt's women PU college and hostel at Koluru-Katralli in Koppal taluk. "I have never said that D K Shivakumar shouldn't become CM. Has he (DKS) ever said that he wanted to become CM? I am not a supporter of any leader. I am a Congress supporter," he said.

Will the socio-edu survey report help breach 50% quota cap?

SC has ruled hike in quota over 50% needs empirical data

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

At a time when the Supreme Court and several High Courts have mandated strict compliance by the 50% quota cap, the findings of the Madhusudan Naik-led Backward Classes Commission's socio-educational survey report will be crucial for the eventual legal fights to raise the bar beyond 50% in Karnataka.

The state has 56% reservation (17% for Scheduled Castes, 7% for Scheduled Tribes and 32% for Other Backward Classes).

However, the 50% cap has compelled the state government to revert to its earlier matrix of 15% reservation for SCs and provide internal reservation for SCs as per the 5.25 - 5.25 - 4.5 matrix (3% for STs and 32% for OBCs).

In the Indra Sawhney case in 1992, the Supreme Court has stated that an increase in the reservation share beyond 50% requires empirical data.

Against that backdrop, the data of the Naik Commission report could be crucial for the state government.

Though the report was initially expected to be submitted by December-end, it has been postponed multiple times.

When contacted, Naik told *DH* that the submission may take another month.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has argued that the reservation cap should be increased to 75% to provide adequate representation to OBC communities.

Recalibration

While the data is crucial, there are also concerns on whether the Supreme Court will accept the premise to increase the reservation, since similar attempts by the Bihar and Telangana governments have been struck down in recent years.

According to a section of experts, the 50% cap doesn't set any bar on internal tweaking within the 50% quota.

Upholding this view, former member of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC) K N Lingappa argued that the Constitution mandated providing reservation as per their population only to SCs and STs.

"The reservation as per population mandate is only for the SCs and STs and not for the OBCs. Even though the OBCs had 52% population, the Mandal commission recommended 27% reservation to them so as to not breach the 50% ceiling. Thus, till courts agree to increase the cap beyond 50%, it's perfectly constitutional to temporarily rearrange the matrix to provide reservation as per population to SCs and STs by reducing the OBC share," he added.

K N LINGAPPA
Former member KSCBC

> Reservation as per population mandate is only for the SCs and STs and not for the OBCs. Even though the OBCs had 52% population, the Mandal commission recommended 27% reservation to them so as to not breach the 50% ceiling. Thus, till courts agree to increase the cap beyond 50%, it's perfectly constitutional to temporarily rearrange the matrix to provide reservation as per population to SCs and STs by reducing the OBC share.

However, multiple bureaucrats told *DH* there hadn't been any discussion at the government level on reducing the OBC share.

One officer noted that such discussions could potentially gather steam after the BC commission submitted its report.

Breaching 50% only solution: Hariprasad

Veteran Congressman B K Hariprasad argued that the only solution to the quota conundrum was to breach the 50% cap set by the Supreme Court.

He said the Karnataka Legislature must pass a resolution to increase reservation and add it to the 9th Schedule and send it to the Union government.

However, experts feel that the process of the legislature passing a resolution, and then the Parliament passing a constitutional amendment through a 2/3rd majority, is quite laborious and not realistic.

STRUGGLE FOR SHELTER

The workers serving under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) use a piece of cloth for shade to record their digital attendance at Anehosuru in Lingsugur taluk of Raichur district on Sunday. DH PHOTO

1.45 lakh students appear for NEET UG exams

BENGALURU, DHNS

There were no untoward incidents reported in the state during the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) held on Sunday for admission to undergraduate medical courses.

According to the district authorities, no such incidents were reported till 6 pm on Sunday. Around 1.45 lakh students wrote NEET UG exams conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) across Karnataka, which was held in a single shift from 2 pm to 5 pm.

In Bengaluru, as per the information, two students who arrived late to the exam centre were not allowed to write exams. Both the students were allotted RC College of Commerce and Management to write NEET.

Despite the NTA specifying that candidates must reach the exam centre two hours prior to the exam time, the girl arrived only at 1.50 pm, while the frisking and other security procedures were completed at 1.30 pm. When asked for reason to reach the centre late, the girl blamed the Bengaluru traffic. Another student who reached the exam centre early, went to Majestic to get passport size photographs. And by the time he was back, it was late and was denied entry.

Meanwhile students gave mixed opinion about the paper. "The paper was lengthy. It took time to read the statements in each question and come to conclusion. It was a moderate paper," said a student. Another student said, "Biology was easy, but I struggled to answer all the questions in Chemistry and Physics. The paper was lengthy and moderately difficult."

Auto driver dies a day after neighbour's assault

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 26-year-old autorickshaw driver died on Saturday, a day after his neighbour allegedly assaulted him over a petty dispute near JJ Nagar in west Bengaluru, police said.

Around 10 am on Friday, the deceased Mubarak and his neighbour Tabrez quarrelled over a missing seat in the autorickshaw. The argument escalated and Tabrez grabbed a wooden bar and hit Mubarak on the head.

Mubarak collapsed and was rushed to hospital. He succumbed on Saturday after failing to respond to treatment. Police arrested Tabrez for murder.

Madavara-Tumakuru metro: DPR soon, says Parameshwara

TUMAKURU, DHNS

The detailed project report (DPR) on the proposed extension of Namma Metro from Madavara in Bengaluru to Tumakuru will be submitted in a week, announced Home Minister G Parameshwara in Tumakuru on Sunday.

Parameshwara, also the Tumakuru district in-charge minister, said that extending Namma Metro service to Tumakuru would render commute between the two cities a hassle-free affair. "The DPR is being drafted, and will be submitted soon," he said.

Outlining his plans to transform Tumakuru into a sports hub, Parameshwara said, "Tumakuru hosted the national-level junior athletics meet last week, while the women's ITF tennis tour event is underway at the moment. We have earmarked 42 acres near P Gollahalli for the construction of an international cricket stadium, and work on the stadium will commence soon. Once completed, the stadium will host international cricket matches. Tumakuru will soon become a 'Sports City'."

Thinkers, activists reject SIR, term it 'undemocratic' & 'unscientific'

BENGALURU, DHNS: A group of eminent writers, intellectuals and activists has slammed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) as "undemocratic" and "unscientific," and has sought the stoppage of the process.

The note released to the press, signed by 308 signatories including Justice B Sudarshan Reddy, Ram Punyani, Yogendra Yadav, Teesta Setalvad, Prakash Raj and Tushar Gandhi, noted that the ongoing hearing in the Supreme Court regarding the constitutional validity of SIR must first be concluded.

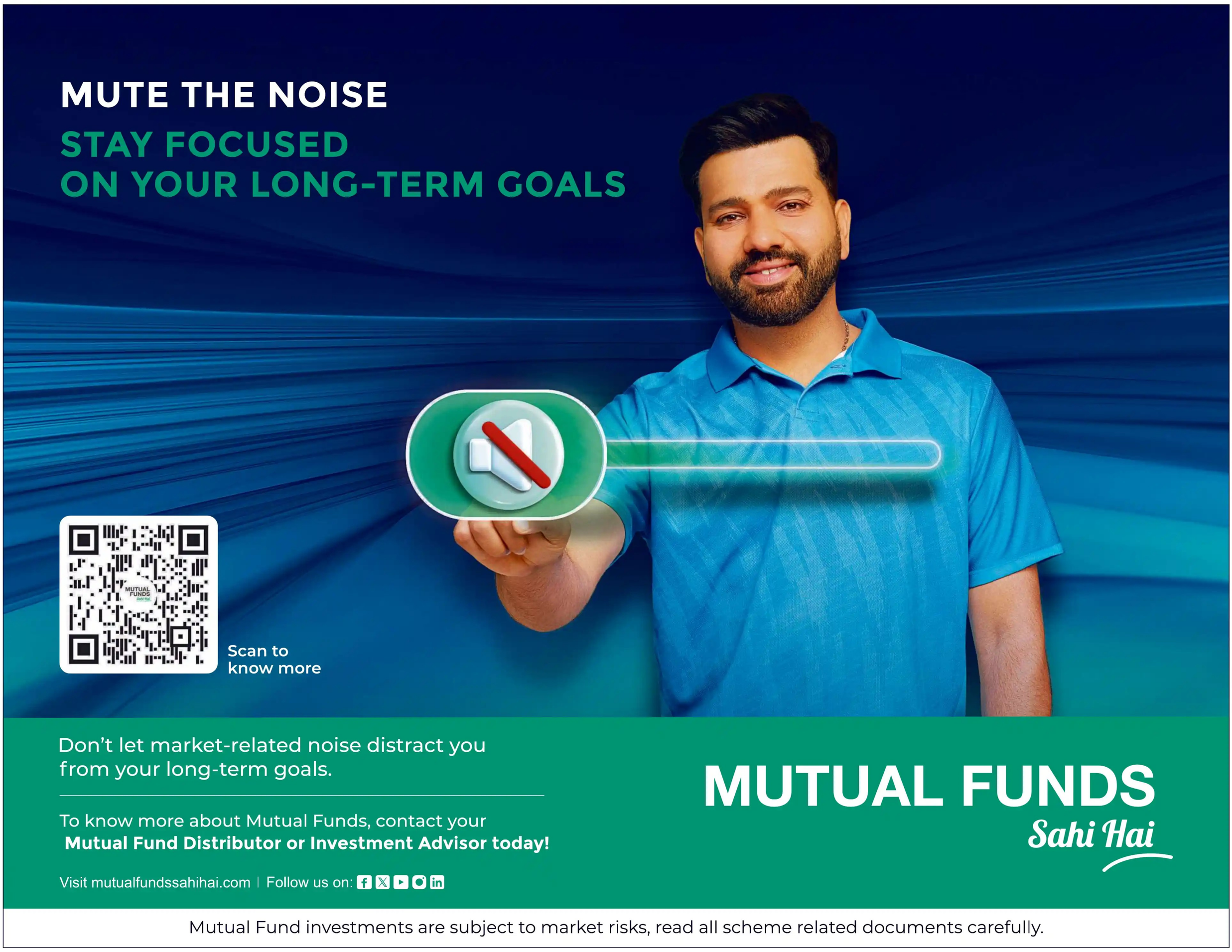
It explained that "6 crore rightful voters" have been "deprived" of their right to franchise in 10 states and 3 UTs where SIR has already been conducted.

"During the SIR in Bengal, about 35 lakh voters seeking adjudication were denied verification for no fault of theirs. They lost their right to vote. This mass denial of their basic right has proven, beyond doubt, that this is a flawed process, and designed with mala fide intent."

The letter noted that most of those who had been removed from the voters list were from minority, Dalit, Adivasi and other marginalised sections like migrant workers, daily wage labourers and nomadic communities. Even here women have been disproportionately impacted, it added.

"A process that deletes or sends notices to notable citizens of this country – including Noble Laureate Amarthya Sen, former Navy Chief Admiral Arun Prakash (retd), Indian cricketer Mohammed Shami, Joy Goswami, the award-winning poet – deletes lakhs of people with all documents including passports, not even sparing many returning officers who are under election duty - only further demonstrates the deeply flawed nature of the SIR process."

The note said that the SIR had "completely failed" in its objective of identifying and removing "infiltrators."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Parties brace for today's poll outcome

Results, From Page 1

Kerala will be crucial for the Congress and the CPM, as a defeat would be politically devastating for both.

The Congress has been out of power in Kerala for the past ten years and it is hoping for nothing less than an emphatic victory, which could cement its pre-eminent position in the Opposition fold at the national level.

Incidentally, among the states that went to polls, only in Kerala the party is confident of regaining power.

During the campaign phase, political scientist J Prabhash told *DH* that a defeat in Kerala that has nearly 50% minorities would signal that the Congress has entered the "last leg of decline".

For the CPM and the LDF, a defeat would mean that the Left is no longer in a government in the country for the first time after 1977.

In Assam, the BJP is seeking a third term while the Congress is seeking to return to the game in full force.

While exit polls have not been encouraging for the Congress, with the BJP projected to get two-thirds majority, the grand old party believes that its performance would be much better than what is predicted.

The AINRC-led NDA is seeking to retain power in Puducherry where the Congress-DMK alliance hopes to register its supremacy as in neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

However, the exit polls have projected a status quo with the AINRC managing to retain power against the Congress and the DMK, which could not reconcile their differences.

Sandur residents demand MoEF not to gloss over mining hazards

Question 'minor violations' listed in the inspection report

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The residents of Sandur severely affected by pollution due to mining have written to the Union environment ministry expressing concern over the failure of its officers to capture the factual situation, and the lack of action even against the watered-down version of the findings.

Under the banner of Janasangrama Parishath, the villagers wrote to the Deputy Inspector General of Forests at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Sreeshaila Aladahalli and Rajesh Ramakrishnan, who signed the letter, referred to the site inspection report by Dola Bhattacharjee, a scientist from the ministry who conducted the site inspection following complaints against operations by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).

In particular, the Parishath raised concern over the characterisation of "a number of violations" as "minor" violations in the inspection report. "We note from the site inspection report that there has been non-compliance with the Environment Clearance conditions which endanger public health and safety. These instances of non-compliance can in no way be described as minor," it said.

The villagers also questioned the casual approach adopted in the inspection report. "Para V on Page 9 of the report says the conveyor belt is not in operation, but does not say since when," they noted, alleging that the conveyor belt was constructed without the necessary clearances.

The local people have questioned the casual approach adopted in the inspection report. DH FILE PHOTO

They demanded a thorough analysis of the air quality, noting that the company has installed three continuous air quality monitoring systems (CAAQMS) against the requirement of "at least four" and the ministry's scientist ruled the air quality as within the prescribed norms based on the data from manual air quality monitors that are much less accurate than CAAQMS.

"These constitute non-compliance with EC conditions which are harmful to human health and cannot be termed 'minor'," they said.

The Parishath described "factually incorrect" the scientist's declaration that there was no village near the mining lease area.

"The statement, 'No human settlement was observed within or in the immediate vicinity of the ML area' is factually incorrect. Kamaturu village is about 300 metres from the ML boundary and Devagiri village is about 500-600 metres from the boundary," it said.

Noting that the scientist acknowledged that "noticeable dust persists" along some of the road stretches passing through villages used by the trucks to transport ore, the Parishath argued that it was misleading to declare the air quality as acceptable based on reading from one CAAQMS that can't pick up the pollution on these roads.

Aladahalli, speaking to *DH*, noted that while the inspection report acknowledges that relevant facts "may not have been fully presented" by the NMDC, it glosses over the matter. "The site inspection report failed to capture the reality and glossed over even the violations it chose to record. However, we have not been made aware of the recommendations made. We have requested the ministry officials to give us an opportunity to explain the factual situation," he said.

Plan for B'luru's longest...

Metro line, from Page 1

The DPR process typically takes a year and requires clearances from both the state and the Centre. If approvals come through, construction may begin by 2029.

A second source described the metro corridor as one of the "most promising", as it would connect emerging suburbs, unlike some proposed extensions to neighbouring towns such as Tumakuru, Bidadi and Hoskote.

"This line has a lot of potential and should be fast-tracked," the source added.

The BMRCL has also proposed extending the Yellow Line by 11 km from Bommasandra to Attibele, the last city suburb towards Tamil Nadu, affecting the neighbouring state's plans for the Hosur-Bommasandra corridor.

"Building a continuous line from Bommasandra to Hosur would be technically complex due to differences in traction systems and operations. Tamil Nadu uses overhead electrification for its metro systems and understands their operations and maintenance (O&M) components. We use the 750V DC third-rail traction. This would create interoperability issues. So ending the line at Attibele is ideal," the first source said.

According to the source, building the Bommasandra-Hosur line would also require changes to the planning area through a Union government gazette notification, which can be a lengthy process.

"The metro is not like the RRTS, which is designed to connect cities. Here, we have the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area, while Tamil Nadu has its own planning area. We'll build the line in our area, while Tamil Nadu can build its own up to the border. Both stations will be about 90 metres apart and connected by a foot overbridge," the first source explained.

Sringeri recounting: BJP wins as Cong MLA's tally drops

Sringeri, From Page 1

Reacting to the developments, Rajegowda alleged irregularities, claiming that additional markings were found on ballot papers cast in his favour.

"Lines have been drawn against other candidates' names as well. I do not know how this happened. These ballots were considered valid in the presence of agents from all parties during the 2023 counting. Now declaring them invalid has reduced my vote count," he said.

Sudheer Kumar Murolli, who served as Rajegowda's counting agent, also raised concerns. "During the 2023 counting, postal ballots were verified in the presence of agents from all parties. Now, only the bundles of ballots cast in favour of Rajegowda have been declared invalid. These were all valid votes earlier. Now, additional markings are seen on them. This must be probed," he said.

Murolli later lodged a complaint at the Chikkamagaluru Town police station, alleging that 255 ballot papers cast in favour of Rajegowda had been tampered with. He has urged a case to be registered and an investigation to be conducted against previous Election Officer Vedamurthy, candidate Jeevaraj, and former Deputy Commissioner KN Ramesh.

SC set to hear Darshan's bail plea today

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court is set to take up on Monday a plea by Kannada film actor Darshan, seeking bail in the 2024 Renukaswamy murder case, on the ground that his prolonged incarceration would cause death knell to his acting profession in violation of his fundamental rights.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi would on May 4 consider his writ petition, also highlighting how media channels in Karnataka were recreating court proceedings affecting his right to fair trial.

Notably, the top court had on August 14, 2025, cancelled the bail granted to him and other accused, including Pavithra Gowda.

His plea contended since the judgment passed by this court in August 2025, almost eight months have elapsed wherein the petitioner has been in judicial custody and has undergone custody for a total period of almost one year till date.

"It is a matter of fact that there are a total of 262 witness out of which only 10 witnesses have been examined and it is obvious that the trial would take a very long time to complete and the petitioner would be subjected to a long incarceration thus depriving his personal liberty, dignity and equality, and his fundamental rights under Article 14 and Article 21," it contended.

"His entire livelihood stands jeopardized, if he is incarcerated indefinitely until the end of a prolonged trial. Especially considering the nature of the petitioner's profession, a prolonged incarceration where the trial is pending, would spell a death-knell for his career and is thus an unreasonable restriction on his right to carry on his trade and profession," his plea said.

His petition also contended that media channels in Bengaluru have been recreating court proceedings and the alleged crime scene by using graphics and AI-prompted animations and holding panel discussions weighing the evidence recorded by the Trial Court.

Vinesh fears hostile tournament conditions on return

Vinesh, From Page 1

"Do you think it is fair to change the venue and disturb the whole schedule when about 1500 wrestlers have entered the tournament and made their travel and stay arrangements and have not raised any objections regarding the venue and their safety. Why WFI should do it and put participating wrestlers to inconvenience," said a WFI official.

"If any untoward incident happens to me, my team, or supporters during the competition, the Indian government will be responsible," Vinesh, who will be competing in the 57 kg category, said.

The two-time World Championships medallist also urged the media and the sporting community to be present at the venue to ensure transparency.

"The tournament is being organised at a place where his (Brij Bhushan's) influence is strong. Who will officiate which bout, how many points will be awarded, who will sit as mat chairman, everything can be controlled by him and his people," claimed Vinesh, who is also a sitting MLA from Julana, Haryana.

Brij Bhushan, whose tenure as WFI chief ended following the allegations of sexual harassment levelled by the elite wrestlers back in a well-documented scandal in 2023, served as a six-time Lok Sabha MP from Gonda, Balarampur and Kaisergunj constituencies in UP from 1991 to 2024 (including five tenures with the BJP).

His elder son, Karan Bhushan, is currently the MP from Kaisergunj, while his younger son, Prateek, is the incumbent MLA from Gonda.

Vinesh also revealed that she is one of the six women wrestlers who filed a sexual harassment complaint against Brij Bhushan during the wrestlers' protest against WFI. Invoking the Supreme Court's guidelines on protecting the identity and dignity of victims, Vinesh said she felt compelled to speak publicly due to the circumstances.

"I am one of the six women wrestlers who filed complaints. The case is still in court and witnesses are being examined. Competing at a place linked to him, where most people present may be associated with him, puts immense mental pressure on me. I doubt if I will be able to give my 100% in that environment," she said. Meanwhile, Sanjay Singh is the current WFI chief and is considered a close ally of Brij Bhushan.

Vinesh, who skipped the National Championships last year post her return, is in all likelihood out of the Asian Games as the ongoing selection criteria permits entry to only the Nationals medallists for the final trials.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at one or two places over South Interior Karnataka.
Forecast May 4: Partly cloudy sky. Light rain/ thundershowers likely towards evening / night.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	36.2	20.8	0.0
Bidar	43.4	26.0	0.0
Vijayapura	40.5	22.5	0.0
Dharwad	36.8	21.0	0.0
Haveri	35.8	22.4	0.0
Kalaburagi	42.3	27.1	0.0
Raichur	41.2	27.0	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.5	24.1	0.0
Karwar	36.8	26.0	0.0
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.2	27.8	0.0

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	33.9	21.2	0.0
Bengaluru	34.4	23.4	0.0
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	35.8	22.0	0.0
Davangere	37.2	21.0	0.0
Hassan	--	--	--
Mysuru	35.4	19.6	0.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	35.4	23.6	0.0
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	32.0	22.0	NIL
Kolkata	33.0	24.0	NIL
Mumbai	33.0	30.0	NA
Chennai	35.0	28.0	NA
Pune	37.0	22.0	NA
Hyderabad	39.0	26.0	NA
Th'puram	33.0	28.0	NIL

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SAANVI V K 93.8%
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SHASHANK K 89.2%
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97.28% AMRUTHA R
95.52% VAISHNAVI KARTHIK
94.88% SACHIN P N
94.88% M S LIKHITH
91.52% VARSHA A
90.24% G R GOWTHAMI
89.76% CHARAN SAYEE M
89.28% AKSHARA G
87.84% KAUSHIK P
87.36% BRUNDA M SAVANTH
86.88% RITESH N
86.72% G SAANVI DATTA
86.4% G MOHITH GOWDA
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80% SANJAY G
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India rejects Nepal's objection to Mansarovar Yatra via Lipulekh

Says such unilateral artificial enlargement of territorial claims is untenable

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Sunday firmly rejected Nepal's objection to the upcoming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the long-established Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand, dismissing Kathmandu's territorial claims over the region as an "unilateral artificial enlargement" that New Delhi finds "untenable".

New Delhi's sharp reaction came hours after the Nepal foreign ministry issued a statement taking strong objection to India and China making preparations for the annual pilgrimage via Lipulekh Pass without consulting Kathmandu claiming the region belongs to it.

Last week, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra will take place from June to August via two routes, Lipulekh Pass and Nathu La in Sikkim. Subsequently, China said it is also making preparations for the pilgrimage.

"India's position in this regard had been consistent and clear. Lipulekh Pass has been a long-standing route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra since 1954 and the Yatra through this route has been going on for decades," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"This is not a new development. As regards territorial claims, India has consistently maintained that such claims are neither justified nor based on historical facts and evidence," he said.

"Such unilateral artificial enlargement of territorial claims is untenable," he added

Kathmandu's statement weeks after rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah became the PM has surprised New Delhi, as it was felt that the bilateral relations between the two sides would witness a significant upswing under his leadership.

Nepal's objection came days before a planned trip by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to Kathmandu. It is not immediately known whether there will be a review of the planned trip.

"The Nepal government is clear and fully committed to its stand that Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani, lying in the East of the Mahakali river are its inseparable territories based on the Sugauli Treaty of 1816," the Nepalese foreign ministry said in the statement.

Can't seek spouse's income details under RTI Act: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI, PTI: An individual cannot obtain details of their spouse's income from authorities by filing an application under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Delhi High Court has ruled after a wife claimed the information was necessary for the proper adjudication of her maintenance claim.

Personal information, unless related to public interest, is exempted from disclosure under Section 8 (1)(j) of the Act, and as per the Supreme Court, an individual's income tax returns fall within that category, Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav said.

The court was dealing with her husband's petition challenging an order of the Central Information Commissioner (CIC) directing the income tax authorities to reveal the details of his next taxable income for the financial years 2007-2008 on an RTI application by his estranged wife.

Setting aside the CIC order passed in 2021 for being "unsustainable in law," the HC, in its April 28 order, said the information sought by the wife was undoubtedly the petitioner's 'personal information,' which cannot be directed to be disclosed because it did not fall under the exception of "larger public interest."

The court said the intent of the legislature could not have been to allow disclosure of individuals' personal information that has no bearing on the public at large.

Boy dies climbing water tank for reel after stairs collapse

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

One boy who was climbing a water tank in Uttar Pradesh's Siddharth Nagar town to shoot Reels died after falling when the staircase to the top collapsed.

According to reports, five children had tried to climb the water tank, situated in the Kanshiram Housing colony in the town, on Saturday.

Two of them — identified as Pawan (14) and Shaban (12) — were left stranded at the top after the staircase collapsed. They were rescued by an Indian Air Force (IAF) chopper after 15 hours on Sunday.

The other three fell to the ground as the stair gave way, and reportedly sustained severe injuries.

One of them — identified as Siddharth (10), a resident of Jhulinpur in the district — later succumbed to his injuries. The other two — Golu (12), Sunny (14) — were said to be undergoing treatment at a hospital in Gorakhpur and remain in critical condition.

On the rescue, the IAF said in a social media post: "On a request from state government authorities, an IAF Mi 1 VS of Central Air Command (CAC) was deployed to rescue two stranded children, who were stuck up on top of a water tank in Siddharth Nagar. The children were stranded as the stair of the water tank was damaged."

Efforts were made overnight to construct an alternate route to reach the stranded children, but rain disrupted these operations, prompting authorities to seek aerial assistance.

The operation encountered several challenges, as waterlogging around the tank made the ground swampy, preventing the use of heavy machinery such as cranes and excavators. Additionally, the damaged staircase posed significant access risks.

According to local corporator Satish Rastogi, the defunct water tank, located near the Kashiram Housing locality, was built around 30 years ago and had been declared unsafe. Despite restrictions, children often climbed it to make social media reels.

(With inputs from PTI)

Passenger opens emergency exit, jumps off moving plane at Chennai airport

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Passengers on board a Sharjah-Chennai Air Arabia flight experienced harrowing moments on Sunday morning when a 34-year-old man opened the emergency exit door and jumped off the aircraft while it was taxiing after landing at the Chennai International Airport.

Sources in the airport told *DH* that the passenger, who hails from Pudukkottai district in central Tamil Nadu, is believed to have been unwell and vomited twice during the journey. As the aircraft landed at the airport and was moving slowly along a taxiway, not the main runway, before coming to a complete halt, the passenger hurriedly opened the emergency exit and jumped off the flight.

The pilot immediately brought the aircraft to a halt and alerted the authorities, who arrived at the scene immediately. The passenger was apprehended by security personnel after a brief chase on the taxiway.

"He sustained minor abrasions while jumping," a police officer said, adding that the passenger was given first aid before he was taken to a secure location within the airport for questioning.

Police said they have gathered that he complained of a vomiting sensation and is believed to have vomited twice on board. "We are interrogating him," the officer added.

Airport officials said the incident briefly disrupted operations. Authorities have launched an investigation into the breach of aviation safety protocol. The aircraft is believed to have been grounded.

MISCELLANY

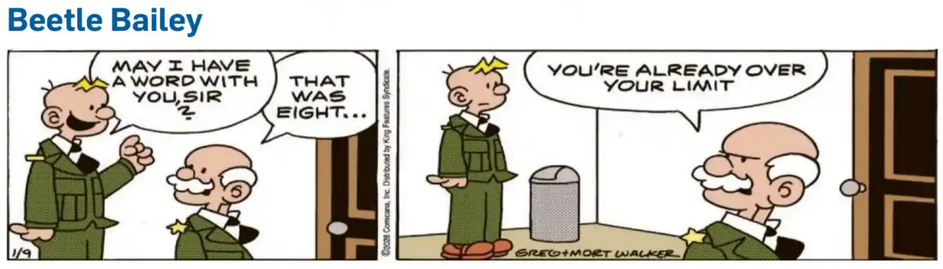
◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

DAD, I NEED SOME ADVICE ON A HUGE PROBLEM
IS THE PROBLEM ABOUT FINANCE OR ROMANCE?
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ONE OR THE OTHER?!
WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE ABOUT?
OKAY, IT'S BOTH

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

I'M WRITING A BOOK ABOUT BEETHOVEN
THERE'S THIS GIRL WHO LIKES HIM, SEE, BUT HE WON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HER... SO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE DOES? GUESS!
SHE KICKS HIS PIANO!
"WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?" SHE SAID"

Marvin

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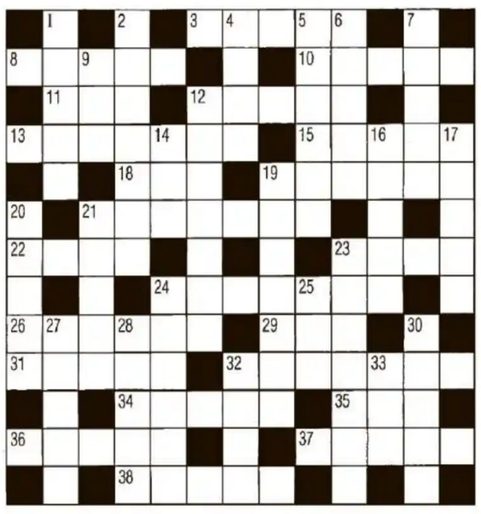

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Cheat twits cleverly (5)
8 Funny items, albeit little ones (5)
10 Airman in an awfully good bunch (5)
11 Enjoy archaeological work (3)
12 Weak enough to fail outright (5)
13 Something edible no vines can produce (7)
15 He is at the back of the room (5)
18 Container of the best seats (3)
19 Sort of killer in a thriller? (6)
21 Many say it's untidy (7)
22 Unusually little done (4)
23 A dizzy ride? (4)
24 Thus they went out of turn with a poet (7)
26 Not a serious affront? (6)
29 Girl in a million, albeit eccentric (3)
31 Sweet, warm hearted, silly Gus (5)
32 Humbles me, being surrounded by clerics (7)
34 Survivor of butchering? (5)
35 One in the record, as at the Yard (3)
36 Slink and sulk around for the weekend (5)
37 As you broadcast, there's some just reward (5)
38 Pass as clever verse (5)

DOWN
1 Helpful soldiers transform Sadie! (5)
2 The French bilge is possibly quite readable (7)
4 Gold in different ways spent (4)
5 This man is a steel erector (6)
6 He does cover-up work in futile rage (5)
7 She can't quite manage to make a noise (5)
9 An element of continued centralisation (3)
12 In communications code, the iFi word (7)
14 So superior, yet of little cash value (3)
16 What it is when there's a bite in the air (5)
17 Armed support? Chuck it! (5)
19 Colonist keeping out of debt (7)
20 Credit a mug with being stupid (5)
21 Stony he may be, but can still manage a cigar (5)
23 Chooses to go to Spithead? (7)
24 Bird giving a shriek? (6)
25 British imperialism absorbs the fellow (3)
27 Fortunate girl about to finish work (5)
28 Oak apples, for instance, contain the lot (5)
30 The pointing finger (5)
32 Fuel used in older vehicles (4)
33 The tune you need if you want to inspire (3)

ACROSS
3 Canoe-like boat (5)
8 Conspiracy (5)
10 Based on truth (5)
11 Pitch (3)
12 Afterwards (5)
13 Rummages about (7)
15 Requirements (5)
18 Toothed wheel (3)
19 Adjust a radio (4,2)
21 Exhaustion (7)
22 Ventilates (4)
23 Quote (4)
24 End, conclusion (7)
26 Private evening party (6)
29 Arid (3)
31 Afoot (5)
32 Plunder (7)
34 Difficult, dangerous (5)
35 Facial twitch (3)
36 Rescues (5)
37 Whole range or scale (5)
38 Prepared (5)

DOWN
1 Truncheon (5)
2 Capital of Venezuela (7)
4 Unfortunately (4)
5 Street lined with trees (6)
6 Girl's name (5)
7 Asian language (5)
9 Exclude (3)
12 Readable (7)
14 Acquired (3)
16 Weird (5)
17 Scornful expression (5)
19 Weekday (7)
20 Light wood (5)
21 Lemon, for example (5)
23 Clear transparent mineral (7)
24 Colour (6)
25 Vase (3)
27 Academy Award (5)
28 Jockey (5)
30 Take place (5)
32 Rip (4)
33 Point a gun (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 2678

ACROSS: 1 Paid off, 5 Insular, 9 Gavotte, 10 Round-up, 11 Stiff, 12 Katharina, 13 Speculate, 15 Vague, 16 Defoe, 18 Put across, 21 For effect, 24 Vital, 25 Enhance, 26 Perfume, 27 Torrent, 28 Dialect.

DOWN: 1 Pegasus, 2 Invoice, 3 Out of tune, 4 Freak, 5 In retreat, 6 Sousa, 7 Lodging, 8 Replace, 14 At present, 15 Vice versa, 16 Deflect, 17 Further, 19 Obtrude, 20 Solvent, 22 Fence, 23 Tepid.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6896 ◆

								9
	6		7	9		8	5	
2				8	1		6	
	8		4	5			2	
	3			2	9		1	
	2		5	7				3
	5	9		3	8		7	
6								

medium

5	7	8	2	3	4	1	9	6
4	3	2	9	1	6	8	5	7
1	6	9	7	8	5	2	4	3
6	1	5	8	9	2	7	3	4
2	9	3	1	4	7	6	8	5
7	8	4	6	5	3	9	2	1
8	4	6	3	2	1	5	7	9
9	5	7	4	6	8	3	1	2
3	2	1	5	7	9	4	6	8

SOLUTION TO 6895

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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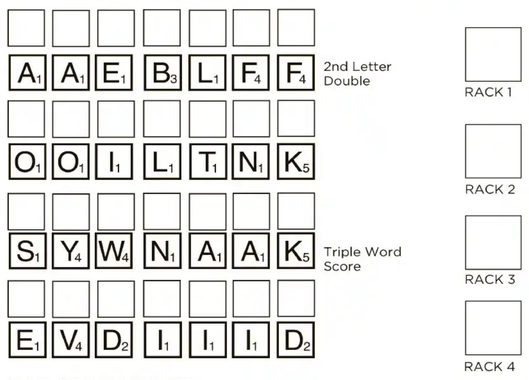


PAR SCORE 125-135
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

V4	A1	G2	R1	A1	N1	T1	RACK 1 =	83
H4	E1	F4	T1	I1	E1	R1	RACK 2 =	89
E1	N1	C3	H4	A1	N1	T1	RACK 3 =	86
C3	H4	R1	O1	N1	I1	C3	RACK 4 =	92
							JUDD'S TOTAL	350

PAR SCORE 230-240

HITORI-3350

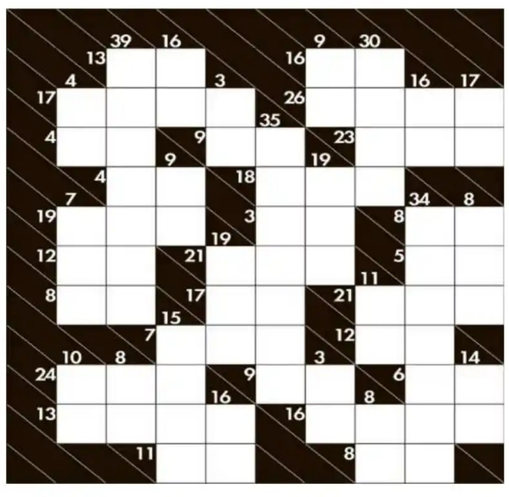
2	6	4	6	7	7	1	8
7	6	3	5	1	2	6	3
8	1	2	1	6	6	8	3
3	6	7	2	8	5	6	1
6	7	1	8	6	3	2	8
2	3	8	1	2	8	5	6
1	5	2	6	3	8	8	4
6	8	6	8	5	4	3	7

SOLUTION TO 3349

6	3	4	5	■	1	8	2
7	■	1	■	3	8	■	4
■	6	3	7	2	■	4	■
3	8	■	1	■	2	5	7
8	1	2	■	5	■	7	■
1	■	7	4	6	3	2	5
5	2	■	6	■	4	1	8
2	■	8	3	4	6	■	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3350



SOLUTION TO 3349

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3905

2				5				■
6	■		8				■	9
		■				■		
		1	■		3		9	
9				■		4	1	6
5			■		■			
		■	6			■	8	
	7			3	4		■	5
■			1			3		■

SOLUTION TO 3904

4	1	7	5	3	6	8	9	2
8	3	9	1	7	2	4	5	6
5	6	2	4	8	9	7	3	1
6	2	5	7	1	4	3	8	9
3	7	1	9	6	8	5	2	4
9	8	4	3	2	5	1	6	7
2	4	8	6	5	1	9	7	3
7	9	6	8	4	3	2	1	5
1	5	3	2	9	7	6	4	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZRCEA

FTRDI

LEHTEM

SACNIO

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

GET OUT THE VOTE!
She takes her civic duty seriously.
VOTE!
Such an inspiration!
10/22
THE FASHION RUNWAY STAR WAS POLITICALLY ACTIVE AS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DOUGH MOVIE INNING NOVICE
Answer: They hadn't yet decided which new house to buy, but they were — HOMING IN ON ONE

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Far-reaching effects of UAE's OPEC exit

The United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) exit from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC+, starting May 1, is a decision with far-reaching consequences that will not only rejig but also potentially unsettle multiple global equations. Abu Dhabi's choice is driven by both geoeconomic and geopolitical imperatives. The United States-Israel war on Iran has seriously dented the UAE's image as a safe haven for global trade, finance, and tourism in a troubled region. A boost in oil production — something that it could not do as an OPEC member — can help the UAE if these sectors fail to quickly recover. The UAE accounted for about 13% of OPEC's production capacity, and its exit from the Saudi Arabia-dominated cartel undermines Riyadh's power in setting global oil prices. This move could even embolden other OPEC members to question Saudi Arabia's authority.

The UAE is not the first OPEC member to leave, but never before has a major oil producer exited the cartel. By withdrawing from OPEC, the UAE will be free to increase its oil output, make investments accordingly, and also be better prepared for any future uncertainties in the Strait of Hormuz. The UAE's decision can be seen as a larger move by it to carve an independent policy that puts its 'national interests' first. This rift can further weaken unity in the Gulf countries. A fragmented Arab world will suit Tel Aviv's regional dominance and expansionist ambitions. For the US, a diminished OPEC cuts both ways. It is good news for Washington, as several US presidents, including Donald Trump, have expressed their displeasure over OPEC's excessive powers; and, the bad news is that the UAE's move will ultimately challenge the reign of the petrodollar. Abu Dhabi's 'request' to Washington that it consider a currency swap line to secure US dollar liquidity in the event of the war prolonging and 'suggestion' that it may use the Chinese yuan to trade oil if its dollar reserves shrink, show other oil-producing nations that the petroyuan threat works in Washington.

The interim instability could usher in market unpredictability

The UAE is asserting autonomy and is positioning itself as a middle power, potentially aiming even to eclipse Saudi Arabia. While they align on many policies, Abu Dhabi and Riyadh are increasingly on opposite sides in conflict zones, be it in Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, among others. Differences have emerged on even how to counter Iran's offensive in West Asia. If, and when, global oil output spikes — in the short term, much of it will depend on developments in the Strait of Hormuz — there could be a glut of oil in the market that could bring down prices; this could be good news for India and other oil-importing nations. However, the interim instability could usher in market unpredictability, driving away future investments.

Excise reforms that look beyond revenue

For decades, Karnataka has treated excise revenue as a dependable cash cow, with targets raised year after year and scant regard for the social consequences of alcohol consumption. That orthodoxy now appears to be shifting. The Siddaramaiah government's draft Excise Reforms Policy 2026 is the first serious attempt to acknowledge, quantify, and respond to the wider costs of drinking. That, in itself, is a welcome departure. The government's own estimates are sobering. The excise target of Rs 45,000 crore for 2026-2027 is offset by social costs of roughly Rs 51,000 crore — driven by road accidents, liver disease, domestic violence, and loss of household income. In effect, the State runs a deficit once these negative externalities are factored in. The problem is not merely fiscal. Karnataka's per capita consumption, at 9.1 litres, significantly exceeds the national average, with heavy drinkers imposing disproportionate harm on families and communities, and women and children bearing the brunt.

The proposed reforms reflect a more nuanced approach. Shifting to an alcohol-by-volume (ABV) taxation model — widely regarded as a global best practice — could help nudge consumers away from high-strength spirits. Price deregulation and rationalised tax slabs could introduce greater transparency and competition. The decision to earmark a portion of excise revenue for de-addiction, road safety, and domestic violence prevention is particularly important, signalling the State's willingness to reinvest in mitigating the damage. The stated goal of reducing consumption by 8-9% over six years is modest but realistic. Yet, the transition carries risks. Any sharp increase in prices, especially of high-ABV liquor, will disproportionately affect lower-income consumers, who are also the most vulnerable to addiction. It is naïve to assume that these consumers will simply migrate to safer, costlier alternatives. Experience suggests they may instead turn to illicit liquor, smuggling networks, or even more harmful substances. Without robust enforcement, the reform could inadvertently expand the very black markets it seeks to curb.

The decision to open the draft policy for public consultation is timely

This makes the proposed technological safeguards — QR-based tracking and geo-fenced transport — critical. Equally vital is the health department's expanded role in prevention and rehabilitation. Taxation alone cannot suffice; credible public health interventions and sustained awareness campaigns must complement policy. The government's decision to open the draft policy for public consultation is, therefore, timely. It allows for course correction before implementation and lends legitimacy to what will be a sensitive policy shift. Karnataka is right to recognise that excise cannot remain a one-dimensional revenue exercise. The challenge now is to ensure that reform is both economically sound and socially responsible.

SWITCHABILITY AT SCALE

Lessons from the oil shock

The ongoing crisis should be used to overhaul India's energy system—towards circularity, diversity, and adaptability

VIJAY KANURU

Over the past two months, oil prices have swung sharply and gas markets have tightened again, pushing governments from Europe to Asia into a familiar scramble: secure supplies, lock in contracts, and refill reserves.

We continue to treat energy security as a procurement problem. Secure crude, hedge prices, diversify suppliers.

But recent shocks have exposed the flaw. When geopolitics tightens, even well-stocked nations are forced to negotiate access instead of exercising autonomy. The vulnerability is not just where energy comes from. It is what systems are built to depend on.

India's energy system like much of the world's remains concentrated around a narrow band of fuels. That concentration is the structural fault line. When systems rely on a few dominant inputs, every disruption spreads across the economy. These 'supply shocks' are, in fact, design failures.

In 2022, when Russian gas flows to Europe fell, German electricity prices surged over fourfold, triggering more than €200 billion in State support. The issue wasn't just scarcity, it was rigidity. The system couldn't switch.

The pattern repeats. Texas's 2021 freeze exposed a narrow, brittle grid. The UK's gas-linked pricing transmitted shocks directly into electricity markets.

Different crises, same flaw. We optimised for efficiency, but built fragility. Pipelines for fuels without pathways between them.

From scarcity to optionality

The constraint today is not resource scarcity, it is system rigidity.

Advances in chemistry and materials science are expanding the fuel landscape. Energy can now be derived from biomass, municipal waste, agricultural residue, water, sunlight and even captured carbon dioxide.

- Ethanol and methanol for transport blending
- Biogas and dimethyl ether (DME) for decentralised energy
- Hydrogen and synthetic fuels for industry
- Sustainable aviation fuels for long-haul mobility

Individually, these solve specific constraints. Collectively, they create something far more valuable: optionality. And optionality is resilience.

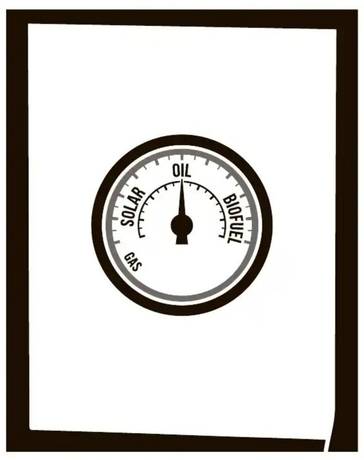
A system with multiple fuel pathways gains switching capacity - the ability to reconfigure under stress. Over time, this prevents disruptions in one fuel from cascading across the economy.

Brazil offers a clear illustration. Its ethanol programme displaces roughly 40% of gasoline demand, creating a parallel fuel system that dampens exposure to global oil shocks.

The deeper transition is not just about new fuels but new origins. The linear model of extract, consume, and discard is giving way to a circular one: reuse, convert, synthesise, and reintegrate.

Plastic waste is being re-engineered into hydrocarbons; captured carbon dioxide is synthesised into fuels like methanol; agricultural and municipal waste streams are converted into biogas and biofuels.

At the University of Cambridge, researchers have demonstrated systems that convert plastic waste and battery acid into hydrogen using sunlight, collapsing the boundary between waste and energy.



In a circular system, landfills become reserves; emissions become inventory; waste becomes input.

India is already assembling pieces of this future quietly, incrementally.

Research at CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory is advancing dimethyl ether as a substitute compatible with existing LPG infrastructure. Work at IIT Bombay is linking biomass conversion to fuel production, turning farm residue into an energy stream instead of a pollution problem.

Compressed biogas plants, ethanol blending, and early hydrogen pilots are steadily expanding the fuel base. But this progress remains fragmented.

India is innovating at the edges while the core system remains largely unchanged. Policy continues to prioritise incremental blending targets and supply additions, rather than redesigning the system itself.

Without integration, these efforts risk becoming parallel experiments—not a transition.

Yet one gap remains. We are building fuels but not systems that can switch between them.

Resilience requires more than diversity. It requires interoperability: infrastructure, standards, and policy frameworks that allow fuels to be interchangeable based on availability, price, or need.

Without switching systems, diversity fragments. With them, diversity compounds.

The real question is no longer whether alternatives exist. It is whether we can switch fast enough when it matters.

Some countries appeared to have already internalised this logic.

China's energy strategy has reduced exposure to external shocks not by eliminating imports but by expanding domestic optionality. Investments in renewables, domestic production, storage, and electrification have created multiple parallel pathways.

The result is not independence but insulation. While fuel-constrained economies scramble during global disruptions, China increasingly relies on stockpiles, domestic energy, and a growing electric mobility base to absorb shocks. This is what an energy system with options looks like.

The economics of circularity

Dependence is expensive. India's oil import bill constrains fiscal choices and delays investment in domestic capability. A diversified, circular system changes that equation retaining value within the economy, converting waste into assets, and reducing exposure to global volatility.

But this transition must be measured to be managed. A Fuel Diversity Index captures not just the range of fuels, but how effectively an economy can switch between them making it a proxy for resilience. The greater the diversity and interoperability, the lower the cost of disruption.

In other words, it measures not just energy but economic insulation. Energy stops being a cost centre; it becomes a value network.

This transition is not just about replacing fossil fuels with cleaner alternatives. It is about redesigning the system itself—towards circularity, diversity, and adaptability.

Think of the end-state as an energy dashboard where multiple fuels coexist, each serving different needs, and can be dialled up or down depending on price, availability, or disruption. Oil, biofuels, hydrogen, electricity, and synthetic fuels are no longer silos, but coordinated options.

Energy security is no longer about stockpiles, it is about switchability at scale. The future will not belong to countries with the largest energy reserves, it will belong to those that can run energy like a dashboard—switching fuels as seamlessly as data, turning every disruption into a decision, not a crisis.

(The writer serves as a Global Entrepreneur in Residence at the Massachusetts Venture Development Centre in Boston, US)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A bond that transcends the in-law code

My husband's aunt is a living example of strength wrapped in simplicity

RASHMI RAJ

Every daughter carries her father's silent strength in her heart, and the moment she walks away from him after her wedding is among the most emotional passages of her life. While the mother–daughter bond is often celebrated as a team of women, the bond between father and daughter speaks in unspoken words–felt deeply in the soul, yet rarely expressed aloud.

Like many women, there came a day when I had to leave my parents' home and step into my new one. The acceptance was confusing; everything happened so quickly that by the time I realised I was getting married, it was already over. As an introvert, I was frightened—surrounded by new faces, unsure of whom to speak to. Amid the *attes, mavas, chikkammas,* and *chikkappas*, I found one friend: Veena *Atte*, my husband's maternal aunt.

Taller than me by just a few millimetres, with *godhi banna sadharana maikattu*, as they say in Kannada, she carried herself with a smile that lit up every room. She broke the stereotype that countless TV serials reinforce that an *atte* must be intimidating. With her warmth, she gave me the space to share anything—trivial or profound—and became my confidante.

Atte began her career nearly 35 years ago, at a time when working women were rare in most families. As a central government employee, her life was marked by transfers and demanding schedules. She once had to leave her infant daughter just months after birth to report back to duty. People spoke, but few understood the necessity of her work. Two decades ago, without WhatsApp or video calls, only a mother could know the ache of wondering whether her child had eaten or slept well while living miles away. Though she saw her daughter only once in a blue moon, she ensured their bond never weakened. Her little one found comfort in her father's lap and when he was busy, discovered joy in the embrace of her aunts.

Now, after years of service, *atte* is in Bengaluru, completing her final days as a scientist in the Department of Geology. From the time I have known her, she has defined simplicity. Whether in light cotton *saris* at work or modest *salwars* at home, she has never sought grandeur—her elegance lies in restraint.

With retirement, life offers her a gift she once missed: to relive her daughter's childhood through her granddaughter, a mirror image of her little girl.

She isn't just my husband's aunt—she is my friend, my guide, and a living example of strength wrapped in simplicity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A dangerous precedent in the making

I refer to 'West Bengal polls: Exclusion through overreach' (May 2). The editorial raises several crucial questions on the disturbing and disappointing series of incidents relating to the state elections in West Bengal. These developments should be carefully scrutinised for their possible future consequences. The EC has ignored several glaring complaints that were visible for anyone to see and question. The deletion of voters is a stark example. It has also ignored several poll violations, including that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed the nation and attacked the Opposition in his 30-minute speech. The replacement of police and administrative staff in West Bengal with central staff at the counting centres is detrimental to a federal democracy. The unfortunate reality is that there appear to be fewer and fewer people in the country to point out to those in power the dangers of weakening institutions.
Hemachandra Basappa, Bengaluru

Democracy under strain

The recently concluded two-phase Assembly elections in West Bengal attracted the attention of democratic observers due to the exceptionally high voter turnout. However, concerns have been raised about alleged attempts by certain political actors to influence the polling process, reflecting tensions and resistance to political change. Such actions suggest a reluctance to fully accept the mandate of the electorate. Repolling was conducted in 15 polling booths in South 24 Parganas following complaints of EVM irregularities. Reports of disturbances during the election, even in the presence of central security forces, highlight the challenges in ensuring a smooth electoral process.
Basavaraj N Akki, Dharwad

Trapped in exam cycle

The CBSE has announced a second Board exam for Class 10 students, and nearly seven lakh students have reportedly registered for it. More than 5.85 lakh of them have already passed and are reappearing to improve their scores. We have become so exam-oriented that we are not allowing children to learn, grow and explore the world. Instead, we are pushing them towards rote learning.
Ali Khwaja, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Crime is coming under control, and such incidents (of encounters) break the morale of criminals. The two encounters that have happened are the only solution for criminals. If any criminal tries to shoot at the police, he will meet the same fate as has just happened.
Sanjay Jaiswal, BJP MP

Violence is the last resort of the incompetent.
Isaac Asimov

TO BE PRECISE

'Extremely severe alerts' buzz phones as govt tests nationwide emergency system alert mechanism

IN PERSPECTIVE

Tiger triumph and the fragile truth

India is counting its tigers, but seems to be failing to account for how they die

GIRIDHAR KULKARNI

India's tiger story has long been framed as a rare conservation success. Under the stewardship of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), populations have rebounded, reserves have expanded, and the country today hosts nearly three-fourths of the world's wild tigers. But beneath that success lies a quieter crisis — one that cannot be solved by administrative shortcuts. A recent move by the NTCA to close unresolved tiger death cases if states fail to meet investigation deadlines risks doing precisely that: replacing accountability with paperwork compliance.

At first glance, the logic appears bureaucratically sound—pending cases clog systems and deadlines impose discipline. But wildlife mortality investigations are not routine files; they are complex, evidence-sensitive processes requiring forensic rigour, field verification, and inter-agency coordination. When dozens of tiger deaths remain unexplained due to missing necropsies, incomplete forensic reports, or delayed field inquiries, the problem is not delay alone—it is systemic failure. Closing such cases without determining the cause of death is not efficiency; it is erasure.

This concern is no longer abstract. Documents obtained under the Right to Information Act by wildlife activist Ajay Dubey reveal that at least 88 tiger mortality cases from 2020-2021 remain 'pending' or 'under scrutiny', spanning some of India's most critical tiger landscapes. In Madhya Pradesh alone, the backlog includes cases from key breeding strongholds such as Bandhavgarh, Kanha, and Panna Tiger Reserves. In Maharashtra, unresolved cases from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and Chandrapur signal risks in buffer landscapes, while even Kaziranga National Park in Assam has unexplained deaths dating back to 2020. Similar gaps persist across Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, including cases in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Dudhwa National Park, and Corbett Tiger Reserve — some marked as 'seizures', indicating poaching evidence without legal closure.

Five years on, many cases still lack basic evidentiary components — post-mortem reports, forensic analysis, histopathology, and photographic documentation — pointing to a breakdown of the investigative chain. What makes the current proposal particularly troubling is that it contradicts the NTCA's own prescribed process for analysing tiger mortality. Under its protocol, no death is recorded without state confirmation. All cases must follow SOPs under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and the burden of proving the cause of death rests with the state through scientific evidence, after which the NTCA assigns the final cause.

The system is built on a precautionary principle: in the absence of conclusive evidence, a tiger death is to be treated as poaching. But what purpose does that safeguard serve if cases are ultimately closed without a logical conclusion? The presumption of crime means little if it is never followed through with investigations. This safeguard exists because wildlife crime is often concealed and evidence is fragile. By defaulting uncertainty to suspicion, the framework errs on the side of protection. The proposed closure policy inverts that logic—if cases are shut due to missing reports, absence of evidence becomes grounds for disposal, shifting the burden from the state to the tiger.

As Ajay Dubey puts it, "By force-closing these files, the NTCA is effectively scrubbing potential poaching incidents and management failures from the national record."

Crucially, this institutional weakness was anticipated nearly a decade ago. The National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031), issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, had already called for strengthening investigation capacity, improving forensic infrastructure, and ensuring faster prosecution of wildlife crimes. It emphasised training frontline staff in evidence collection, establishing a network of advanced wildlife forensic laboratories by upgrading existing facilities, and creating fast-track judicial mechanisms within defined timelines — yet much of this remains unimplemented.

The NTCA's January 2026 communiqué, warning of closure if documents were not submitted within weeks, addresses none of these structural issues and instead risks institutionalising them. India's conservation model depends on a balance between central oversight and state execution, but the present situation exposes weaknesses in both — states have failed to complete investigations, yet closure normalises that failure.

Tiger conservation is not just about increasing numbers—it is about ecological integrity and public trust. A pending case signals a problem, while a closed case without findings conceals it. If the NTCA is serious about addressing its backlog, the focus must shift from tidying records to fixing the system.

When a country that leads the world in tiger conservation cannot credibly explain how its flagship species is dying, it risks undermining the very foundation of its success story. Most importantly, the foundational principle must remain intact: every tiger death deserves a credible explanation. Closing files may reduce the backlog, but without fixing the system, future deaths risk remaining just as unexplained — and far more consequential.

When the cause of death is unknown, the cause of failure is not.

(The writer is a wildlife conservationist)

Assemblies offer the clearest path to women's reservation

KANNAN GOPINATHAN

On April 17, the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill was defeated in the Lok Sabha. It received 298 of the 352 votes needed, falling short by 54. The Delimitation Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, both dependent on the constitutional amendment, were withdrawn.

The Union government's response has been to blame the Opposition for denying India's women their political rights. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Opposition would not be "forgiven" by India's women. This framing is dishonest. The Opposition did not vote against women's reservation. It voted against a package that bundled women's reservation with a Lok Sabha seat expansion that had no consensus.

Women's political representation does not have to remain hostage to this deadlock. It can find a way forward through the state legislatures.

The Congress built women's reservation at the grassroots. In 1989, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi introduced the Constitution Amendment Bill to provide one-third reservation for women in rural and urban local bodies. It passed the Lok Sabha but could not clear the Rajya Sabha. In 1992, under Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments were enacted, mandating 33% reservation for women in panchayats and municipalities.

More than thirty years later, of roughly 31 lakh elected representatives in local governance across India, nearly 46% are women. Twenty-one states and two Union Territories have raised the reservation to 50%.

Research by Esther Duflo and Raghabendra Chattopadhyay shows that women elected under reservation invest more in public goods directly linked to women's concerns. A UN University study also found that constituencies electing women showed higher economic activity, outperforming constituencies represented by men by roughly 1.8 percentage points per year.

Reform within reach

Can Assemblies be the immediate next rung on the ladder? The Vidhan Sabha is where the overwhelming majority of governance that directly touches citizens' lives gets decided and executed. Education, public health, policing, land revenue, water supply, PDS, domestic violence enforcement, and POCSO implementation: all state-list or concurrent-list businesses.

There is also practical arithmetic here. State assembly seats, like Lok Sabha seats, have been frozen at the 1971 Census level. A constituency that had three lakh people in 1971 may have eight or 10 lakh today. Expanding Assemblies to reflect the current population is overdue on its own terms. And when new seats are being created, reserving a third of them for women becomes a matter of design and not displacement.

There is another advantage. Expanding Assembly seats is an intra-state exercise. It does not pit Tamil Nadu against Uttar Pradesh. It does not trigger a north-south contest over relative representation in a federal legislature. Each Assembly grows proportionally to its population growth. No state loses power relative to another. Assembly expansion sits entirely outside the federal balance question that made the 131st Amendment so contentious.

The 2026-2027 Census is underway. For the first time since 1931, it will include caste enumeration. Assembly expansion should be undertaken after this census, for two reasons. First, accurate and current population data is the proper basis for seat allocation. Using the 15-year old 2011 Census, when a fresh census is months from completion, was one of the legitimate objections to the government's package. Wait for the data. Second, more importantly, the caste census will provide the demographic foundation for OBC representation within the women's reservation framework.

In panchayats, women's reservation already operates as a horizontal quota across all categories: general, SC, ST, and OBC. Several states have extended this to OBC women as well. This is the model that should be replicated at the Assembly level. But you cannot do it properly without knowing the OBC population numbers, and the 2011 Census has no caste data.

The Lok Sabha seat expansion is a federal question. The 1976 freeze on seat allocation held for 50 years as a compact of trust among the states of the Indian Union. Building a new consensus on that compact will take time. The women's reservation should not have to wait for it.

The Narendra Modi government had a choice. It could have pursued women's reservation on its own track, within the existing 543 Lok Sabha seats and the Assembly seats, as the Opposition, particularly the Congress, has repeatedly demanded. Or it could have pursued Assembly expansion as a first step, where the political barriers are lower and the governance payoff is higher.

The defeat of the 131st Amendment should not be the end of the story. It can be a beginning. Assembly expansion involves no interstate conflict, and the 2027 Census will deliver the data. The 33% women's reservation with OBC sub-quotas follows a model tested and proven across 31 lakh elected positions over three decades. Every element required for this is either already in place or will be within two years. The Assembly should be the immediate next step. It is achievable, it is urgent, and it does not require burning down federal trust.

It is within the Union government's power to initiate. The question is whether it will.

(The writer is a member of the Indian National Congress and a former IAS officer)

Moving the deposed civilian leader to a 'designated residence' for the rest of her prison sentence is part of an effort by Myanmar's regime to portray legitimacy

Protesters with a banner of Aung San Suu Kyi in Yangon, Myanmar. Her family has called for her release, warning that her health is deteriorating. FILE PHOTO/AFP

A junta claims 'benevolence' for Suu Kyi, but rules cruelly

RICHARD C PADDOCK

In recent years, Myanmar's military has tortured political prisoners, strangled democracy and killed civilians, even bombing hospitals. Now, as it seeks international legitimacy for its reincarnation as a seeming civilian government, it is promoting a softer image.

On May 1, the regime cited its "humanitarian concerns" and praised itself for its "benevolence and good will" as it said it would allow ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi to serve the 18 years remaining in her prison sentence in a "designated residence." And in a rare move, military-controlled media aired a photo of her on television.

The announcement that Suu Kyi, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her resistance to a previous junta, would be moved from prison to an unspecified residence, rather than being released, was met by harsh criticism from her younger son, Kim Aris, and human rights groups.

"Moving her is not freeing her," Aris said in a Facebook post, shortly after the announcement. His mother, he said, "remains a hostage, cut off from the world."

Suu Kyi was Myanmar's civilian leader when the military seized power in a coup in 2021. She was imprisoned along with hundreds of other newly elected members of parliament.

The coup plunged the country into civil war and devastated the economy while further isolating Myanmar, already an international pariah because of its slaughter of Rohingya Muslim people that is widely recognised as genocide.

In recent months, the junta has tried to establish its legitimacy by holding elections and selecting a new president. But the balloting has been criticised as a sham, with parliament being dominated by the military. The new, ostensibly civilian, president chosen by lawmakers is the junta chief, Min Aung Hlaing.

Suu Kyi, 80, has been held incommunicado for years, prompting Aris to call on the junta repeatedly for "proof of life."

The junta has provided no details about where she would be moved or when the transfer would take place.

But two army officers, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of retribution, said Suu Kyi had actually been moved from prison about 18 months ago to a house in the capital, Naypyitaw. (Around the same time, the military had announced that she was being moved from prison to an undisclosed location because of a heat wave.)

They said the military had withheld the details about her transfer so it could use the information at a later date when it faced international pressure over her fate, particularly from China, Myanmar's powerful neighbour and benefactor.

Last weekend, China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, visited Myanmar and met with the country's rulers. On Thursday, Lin Jian, a spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry was asked about the imprisoned leader at a regular briefing for reporters.

"Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is an old friend of China," he said. "Her circumstance has always been on our minds. China and Myanmar are friendly neighbours. China supports Myanmar in following a development path suited to its national conditions."

His comments were followed that evening by a brief announcement in Myanmar on military-controlled television that she would be moved to a "designated residence."

On Friday, *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, a military-controlled media outlet, posted the same photo of Suu Kyi that was shown on television and said that "in consideration of humanitarian concerns as well as the State's benevolence and good will," Min Aung Hlaing had agreed to let her "serve the remainder of her sentence at a designated residence."

A spokesperson for the junta did not respond to a call and message seeking comment.

Suu Kyi led her party, the National League for Democracy, to repeated landslide victories in national elections and was so popular for decades that millions of people hung portraits of her in their homes.

But until the Thursday evening broadcast, her image had not been shown on television for years. The photo aired briefly shows her sitting with a police officer and an army officer. She appears healthy and in good spirits. It is not clear when or where the photo was taken or whether it had been digitally altered.

Earlier that day, the junta announced that as part of a prison amnesty, her term had been reduced, for the second time this year, and that she now faced 18 years and nine months of detention. Should she live long enough, she would be released when she is 99.

Suu Kyi was originally sentenced in 2022 to 33 years in prison on corruption and other charges that her supporters said were trumped up.

The daughter of Myanmar's independence leader, Gen Aung San, she spent nearly 15 years under house arrest during a previous military regime.

Burma Campaign UK, a human rights group, said the announcement of her transfer to a residence was a public relations manoeuvre aimed at winning favour from foreign governments.

The regime knows from past experience that releasing her and returning her to house arrest can be an effective way to receive international praise, said the London-based organisation, which uses the country's previous name.

"There is concern by human rights activists in and from Burma that superficial gestures by the Burmese military will be used by governments as an excuse to normalise relations and lift sanctions," the group said. "The Burmese military are hoping that with so many crises around the world they can get away with even fewer concessions than last time."

A spokesperson for the National League for Democracy, who asked not to be identified out of fear of retribution from the military, said the party had not been informed of any prison transfer and was unaware of where she would be held.

In April, as part of an annual tradition to commemorate Myanmar's New Year, the junta released U Win Myint, the ousted president and a close political ally of Aung San Suu Kyi's. It also shortened her sentence by 4.5 years. An additional 4,300 prisoners were granted amnesty by the government.

Under international pressure, Myanmar's military government has pursued a State-managed campaign to win global legitimacy for the junta. As part of that effort, the country's powerful military leader, U Min Aung Hlaing, relinquished his military title and was sworn in as the civilian head of state on April 3.

In December and January, the junta held elections in military-controlled areas and banned opposition parties from participating. The result was a rubber-stamp Parliament dominated by supporters of the military, which elected Min Aung Hlaing as president.

Aung San Suu Kyi was charged by the junta with a series of crimes, including corruption, election fraud, inciting public unrest and breaching Covid-19 protocols.

When Myanmar elected her party to power in 2015, she was widely revered for enduring years of house arrest while leading the country's movement for democracy. In 1991, she won a Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts.

By 2021, when she was detained, Aung San Suu Kyi's global reputation had been tarnished, in large part because of criticism that she had downplayed the army's violent campaign against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a rights group based in the region that tracks Myanmar's detainees, says it has verified that more than 14,200 political prisoners are in custody, and it estimates that the country holds more than 22,000 political prisoners in all.

The New York Times

Path from welfare to quality in govt schools

PRAMOD SRIDHARAMURTHY

It is always encouraging when a government talks about education in the language of quality rather than only welfare. Free textbooks, midday meals, uniforms, scholarships, and transport have all mattered, and rightly so. They have made schooling possible for many families. But they have not always been enough to build parental confidence.

That is why the Karnataka government's recent campaign around government schools in general and Karnataka public schools in particular stood out. It did not speak only about admissions, schemes, or affordability. It spoke about continuity, teacher presence, English-medium access, computer education, skill development, transport, nutrition, and a stable schooling journey from the early years to Class 12.

The significance is not in the advertisements or the social media videos alone. Governments release advertisements all the time. What is significant is that the State appears willing to speak publicly about school quality and be judged on it. When a government begins to say that public schools should be chosen not merely because they are free but because they are good, reliable, and capable of preparing children well, that is a positive step.

There is another reason this matters. Education often does not receive the same political visibility as roads, water, electricity, or short-term welfare measures. For that reason, it is worth noticing when a government is willing to put its reputation behind school improvement and publicly invite families to consider government schools with confidence. Education then becomes not just an administrative responsibility but a public issue the government is willing to be judged on.

A recent statewide survey of 14,149 parents across 34 education districts in Karnataka, conducted by India Literacy Project, offers useful context here. One of the most important findings from that study was that the common narrative is too simplistic. Parents are not simply walking away from government schools. Many continue to value government schools and recognise their strengths, including access, trained teachers, midday meals, sports, and reliable syllabus completion. Trust in the public system still exists.

At the same time, parents make practical decisions. They are influenced by whether English-medium options are available, whether teachers are regularly present, whether schools function consistently, whether communication is timely, and whether the overall experience feels dependable. These are not abstract policy questions. They are everyday questions families ask when deciding where to send their children.

Seen in that light, it is worth noting that the campaign touches on issues that also matter to parents. It appears to recognise that public education cannot be positioned only in the language of welfare. If governments want families to choose public schools with confidence, they have to speak in the language of quality, continuity, and accountability. They have to tell parents not only what is provided but also what can be expected.

Government schools should not be treated as the option families choose only when they have no alternative. A strong public system should be able to inspire confidence through dependable functioning, visible teacher presence, and a clear sense of responsibility.

Of course, public messaging is only the beginning. Once a government makes visible promises, it also opens itself to scrutiny. That is healthy. Parents will not judge this campaign by the quality of the advertisement or the video. They will judge it by what they see in actual school life. Are teachers regularly present? Are specialist teachers really appointed? Do schools run consistently? Are the promised English-medium and skill pathways meaningful? Is transport reliable? Do parents find it easier to engage with teachers? Does the school feel more dependable than it did before? That is where the real test lies.

Public education should not have to compete only on being free. It should be able to stand on trust, continuity, quality, and everyday reliability. If governments are willing to say that openly, that is a welcome change.

Governments across states and political cycles have periodically announced school improvement drives. What separates a genuine shift from mere public messaging is whether the announcement is followed by action. That is what will determine whether this moment becomes a meaningful turning point or just another campaign.

(The writer is secretary, India Literacy Project, a non-profit organisation working in the area of education)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Catholics support population policy

Bangalore, May 3
The Catholic Union of India at its annual meeting today has welcomed the National Population Policy announced by the Centre and has exhorted the entire Catholic community to accept the family planning, according to the doctrine of the Church. The meeting, however, vehemently objected to compulsory sterilisation and has appealed to the State Governments not to use pressure and compulsion. It expressed regret that the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission had excluded Christians and SC converts from its purview.

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

Centre bans Deendar Anjuman

New Delhi, May 3
The Union Government today banned Deendar Anjuman, a controversial religious organisation which had engineered bomb blasts in churches in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa between May and July last year, with a conclusion that it had links with Pakistan and its activities were prejudicial to India's security. Elaborating on the grounds for declaring Deendar Anjuman as unlawful, the Union Home Ministry spokesman said the organisation had 'links in Mardan in Pakistan and has been organising a band of disgruntled Muslim youths in India.'

OASIS | NAJIB SHAH

Self-worth in an age of vanity

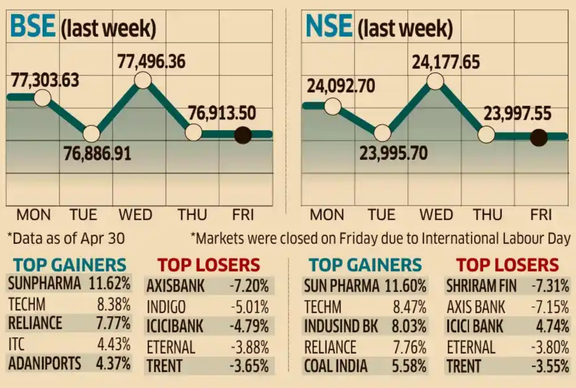
It is a sign of the times where insecurity, poor self-esteem and a huge inferiority complex drive one to believe that only looks matter. Where loneliness in the midst of plenty, which plagues modern society, leads one to focus on extreme measures to enhance physical appearance, seeking attention. Tragically, what this also results in is an egoistic male who treats the female sex with disrespect. Misogyny abounds.

And this in turn has spawned a new lexicon based on contempt, running down the other. A lexicon where you are focused on 'mogging', on becoming a 'chad', where you are constantly 'maxing'. A lexicon where 'mogging' means trying to look superior even as you try to become a 'chad', meaning that you think you look the hottest in your attempt, even as you are 'maxxing', meaning physical self-improvement taken to an extreme.

The whole focus is on 'looksmaxxing', which, as the term suggests, means improving one's looks – even if it means physical abuse, surgical intervention and chemicals. Peptides for a smoother skin, meth to suppress hunger and testosterone to grow muscle. The global beauty industry are major culprits with their misleading, irresponsible advertisements and focus on things ephemeral.

Education is critical in letting an individual appreciate that beauty is only skin deep. That the true value of an individual is reflected in the way he conducts himself in society. Where empathy and good manners are important, where a person is self-aware and has a strong sense of the self but has moved away from ego-driven conduct. Such a person is an asset to society – and, more importantly, confident and contributes to society. The role of the family is critical – families inculcate in an individual a sense of sharing, of caring, of loving. A family provides the emotional support which gives the necessary stability in a person's life. It helps in the socialisation process.

Take care of yourself by all means and be presentable; be modest, which we should never forget, does not mean thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less and more of persons around you. And read Oscar Wilde's classic cautionary tale of Dorian Grey, whose obsession with beauty led to moral decay. We have enough Narcissuses in modern society and do not need further additions to this number.



*Data as of Apr 30 *Markets were closed on Friday due to International Labour Day

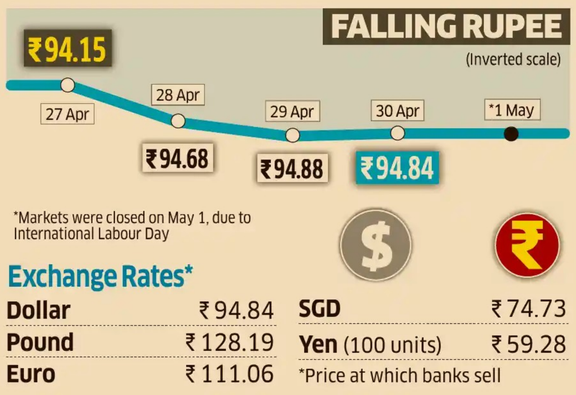
TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
SUNPHARMA	11.62%	AXISBANK	-7.20%
TECHM	8.38%	INDIGO	-5.01%
RELIANCE	7.77%	ICICIBANK	-4.79%
ITC	4.43%	ETERNAL	-3.88%
ADANIPORTS	4.37%	TRENT	-3.65%

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
SUN PHARMA	11.60%	SHRIRAM FIN	-7.31%
TECHM	8.47%	AXIS BANK	-7.15%
INDUSIND BK	8.03%	ICICI BANK	4.74%
RELIANCE	7.76%	ETERNAL	-3.80%
COAL INDIA	5.58%	TRENT	-3.55%

Sensex (52-week)
Apr 30, 2025: 80,242.24 | Apr 30, 2026: 76,913.50 | -4.15%

Nifty (52-week)
Apr 30, 2025: 24,334.20 | Apr 30, 2026: 23,997.55 | -1.38%

10-year Bond yield 7.01%



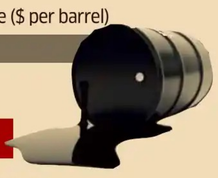
*Markets were closed on May 1, due to International Labour Day

Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹ 94.84	SGD	₹ 74.73
Pound	₹ 128.19	Yen (100 units)	₹ 59.28
Euro	₹ 111.06		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)
BRENT CRUDE
$108.17*
▲ 0.25%
*Rate as of May 1



Bengaluru fuel pump price*
(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹0% ↔
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹0% ↔
*Rates as of May 2 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹ 23300 - 23500
Arabica Cherry	₹ 13000 - 15000
Robusta Parchment	₹ 17500 - 18000
Robusta Cherry	₹ 9100 - 10100

*Rates as on Apr 29

Other Commodities
Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹ 448
Cross Breed (CB)	₹ 557

*Average rates as on May 1

Sun Pharma eyes speciality drug future with Organon buy

The deal will put the company among top 25 global pharma giants

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

A week ago, India's largest pharmaceuticals company Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited announced the largest overseas acquisition in the country's history. Sun Pharma said it would acquire US-based Organon & Co, which specialises in women's health, for $11.75 billion.

While the deal details are already known, let's look at what this acquisition means for the company in the larger sense. Once completed, the acquisition of Organon would place Sun among the 25 largest global pharma companies.

For billionaire Dilip Shanghvi, who established Sun Pharma on a small scale in 1983, the acquisition of a 103-years-old New York-listed healthcare company Organon is a major milestone. It will double the company's annual revenue to $12.4 billion and transform it from a generics player to a global speciality drugmaker.

Announcing the deal, Dilip Shanghvi, Executive Chairman of Sun Pharma, said, "This transaction represents a significant opportunity for Sun Pharma to build on its vision of Reaching People and Touching Lives. Organon's portfolio, capabilities and global reach are highly complementary to our own, and we believe that bringing the two organisations together will create a stronger and more diversified platform."

Shanghvi started his career in the pharmaceutical distribution business in Kolkata with his father. He began with psychiatric medicines and treatments for bipolar disorders, and Sun Pharma went on to grow in size over the years. He set up the first manufacturing facility for tablets in Vapi, Gujarat. Later, Sun forayed into cardiology, R&D, and exports.

Sun Pharma has an impressive track record of acquiring companies and integrating them into its business. It has so far made eight big acquisitions, starting from Taro to Ranbaxy, and Checkpoint Therapeutics.

Sun Pharma's takeover of Organon is primarily aimed at expanding speciality offerings in the women's health portfolio, positioning it among the top 3 globally in this segment. The deal boosts its Established Brands presence, given Organon's 50+ brands and around 55% revenue share, leading to about 51% share in the combined entity and improving scale and cash-flow stability.

A key strategic gap being addressed is biosimilars, where Organon's position as the seventh-largest player enables Sun Pharma to enter a $20 billion+ high-growth market, with potential upside from large LoEs and in-licensing opportunities using Organon's commercial platform. The addition of 550+ approved ANDAs (Abbreviated New Drug Applications) fortify Sun Pharma's complex generics' capabilities, according to a research note from JM Financial.

"The merger also expands its global footprint to 150+ markets, notably in China, and opens access to Korea, Mexico, and Thailand. Sun Pharma aims to leverage its execution to drive growth across Organon's therapies, including CVS, respiratory, bone, and dermatology. Overall, the deal enhances portfolio diversification, improves global scale and builds entry into biologics-led growth segments," says JM Financial.

Established brands sector will grow in the emerging markets. 51% of the revenue share comes from the established brands and it will further grow this business of Organon going forward.

Biosimilars is a new platform for Sun Pharma to enter. "It is a good commercial platform for us to in-license and Organon has a good portfolio in the biosimilar sector and there is a big $320-billion opportunity for Sun in this space. The entire business which is growing by 13% will grow much higher in the next 2-3 years," says Kirti Ganorkar, Managing Director, Sun Pharma.

Organon is present in 140 countries and Sun's presence will increase to 150 markets, and what is more important is that there are 18 markets where Sun's revenue will be more than $100 million. Starting from India, the US, China, Canada, Brazil, and Romania, etc, what helps the company is that it has a strong marketing team of 24,000, selling products and helping consumers.

One of the focus markets is China, which is the second-biggest in the world. Currently, Sun Pharma has a negligible presence there. China is a $150-billion market, growing at 5-7% annually. There are over 2,000 innovative products in development in that country. "For any company to become global and have a meaningful scale, there is a need to be present in China. So, Organon provides a presence for Sun Pharma in China, where it has a good presence and they have eight large brands and $800-million sales and growing in single digit. It helps us take this platform to the next level and grow further," adds Ganorkar.

The combined entity will accelerate growth of the existing business and launch Sun's innovative products business and in-license products for the global markets. Combined company revenues will be $12.4 billion, and will have 51% of its business coming from established brands, 27% from innovative medicines, 15% from generics, and 6% from biosimilars.

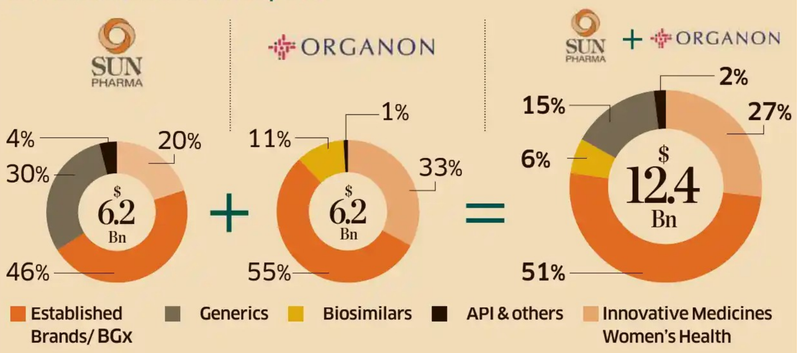
In terms of footprint across the globe, the combined entity will get 29% of its revenues from Europe, 27% from the US, 17% from India, and the balance from the rest of the world. Currently, Organon has a presence in LAMERA, the US, Asia including Japan, the EU, and Canada.

Emerging markets will be one of the big focus markets for Sun Pharma. Broadly, sales will come from across the world and help the company grow further and revenues are not dependent on one geography or one country.

A NEW GLOBAL PHARMA GIANT

Accelerating Sun's transformation towards becoming a global pharma company

Poised to enhance share of Innovative Medicines and Established Brands / BGx



Note: Sun financials as per FY25; Organon financials as per CY25; INR/USD Exchange rates considered for FY25:84.5 INR/USD
*Other includes revenue from drugs manufactured and supplied to Merck

Dilip Shanghvi

A merger of robust operations: EBITDA and Cash Flows set to nearly double

	Sun	+ Organon	= Sun+ Organon	
Revenue	$6.2 Bn	$6.2 Bn	$12.4 Bn	~ 2x
EBITDA	$1.8 Bn	$1.9 Bn*	$3.7 Bn	~ 2x
Free cash flow (Before financing)	$1.4 Bn	$1.1 Bn	$2.5 Bn	~ 1.8x
Net Debt/ EBITDA	Net Positive	~ 4.0x	~ 2.3x	

Strong cash generation to enable debt repayment

Notes: combined figures mean upon acquisition and successful consolidation
*Adjusted EBITDA as reported; Sun financials as per FY25; Organon financials as per CY25; INR/USD Exchange rates considered for FY25:84.5 INR/USD

Organon strengthens Sun's presence in innovation space, with addition of women's health as a new pillar

#1 Pharma company in 4 countries

#7 in biosimilars globally

$12.4 bn Revenue of combined entity

24,000 Combined commercial front-end team

PORTFOLIO OF COMBINED ENTITY Dermatology, Women's Health, Ophthalmology, Onco-Derma

#3 in Women's Health (contraception & fertility). 27% revenue share of combined business

COMMERCIAL PLATFORM Global presence across 150+ markets, 18 markets with $100 mn+ revenue

Source: Sun Pharma Investor Presentation

Sun Pharma secures bridge loan for $12 billion Organon purchase

BLOOMBERG: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. has lined up a short-term loan to help finance its $12 billion acquisition of Organon & Co., according to sources.

At least three banks — Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Citigroup Inc. — have committed to provide the funding, though the final size may change as the deal takes shape, they said.

The bridge facility, if drawn, may run for 12-18 months, they said. The financing highlights both the scale of the deal and how global banks are stepping in to fund overseas deals.

The timing coincides with a drop in foreign-currency borrowing by Indian firms — companies have raised about $3.6 billion so far this year, down from $8.6 billion in the same period last year, data by Bloomberg show.

Banks are also separately exploring whether to refinance Organon's existing debt, as part of the broader financing structure, said the sources.

In either case, the debt is expected to be down-sold to a group of lenders, with banks including Barclays Plc, BNP Paribas and DBS Bank Ltd. likely taking on portions, the people said, adding that nothing has been finalised yet.

New rules for shadow banks may put Tata Sons IPO on radar

RBI's latest clarification tightens framework governing non-bank lenders

BLOOMBERG

A tweak by India's central bank to the definition of shadow lenders has potentially revived the debate about whether Tata Sons — the controller of one of the country's largest conglomerates — could be forced to list in the near future.

The Reserve Bank of India this week said shadow lenders that are accepting money from associates and group entities will be counted as having indirect access to public funds. The acceptance of such funds means that Tata Sons, which overlooks the steel-to-semiconductor empire, might have to go for an IPO to adhere to the regulator's new rules that take effect from July 1.

Tata Sons, one of Asia's oldest business groups, has long sought to avoid being classified in a way that would invite tighter oversight typically associated with top-tier or large shadow lenders, including a mandatory public listing.

But the RBI's latest clarification tightens the framework governing non-bank lenders, where classification hinges on whether an entity avails public funds and has customer interface — two key determinants of regulatory intensity and eligibility for exemptions.

Shriram Subramanian, Founder and Managing Director at InGovern Research Services Pvt., said there are seven Tata Group companies that together hold nearly a 12% stake in Tata Sons, adding that the debt raised by these companies constitutes indirect access to public funds for Tata Sons.

According to Subramanian, the RBI's latest tweaks clearly state that a shadow lender with both direct and indirect access to public funds must be listed.

That will pose a challenge to Tata Sons which missed its September 2025 deadline to go for a public offering, despite being classified as "upper layer." Firms under this section have to be listed on exchanges.

An email to Tata Sons outside of regular business hours remained unanswered.

In 2024, Tata Sons had put an application with the RBI for voluntary surrender of its certificate of registration as a "core investment company". Remaining a privately-held entity allows tighter control for Tata Trusts, avoids market disclosure and governance requirements tied to publicly traded firms, and greater flexibility in long-term capital allocation across the group.

A listing would bring tighter scrutiny, minority shareholder considerations and constraints on intra-group transactions.

Last month, Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry, Chairman of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group — which holds an 18.4% stake in Tata Sons as a substantial minority shareholder — reiterated its call for a public listing of the Tata Group holding company, urging the RBI that such a move is essential to unlock value for investors, describing it as "not merely a regulatory compliance but a necessary evolution".

"RBI is consolidating regulations across the ecosystem for their regulated entities" said Vivek Iyer, Partner and Regulatory Ecosystem Leader at Grant Thornton Bharat LLP. "Going forward, more measures are expected clearing investor ambiguity," he added.

Air India to hold board meeting on May 7

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, PTI

As headwinds persist for the loss-making Air India, its board is expected to discuss cost-saving plans, selection of the next CEO, financials, and other issues during the meeting scheduled for May 7, according to sources.

Headwinds for the Air India Group, which is projected to have incurred more than Rs 22,000 crore loss in the financial year ended March 2026, have multiplied with the West Asia conflict.

In the midst of an ambitious transformation plan, the Tata Group-owned airline is also scouting for a new CEO as incumbent and Singapore Airlines Group veteran Campbell Wilson will be stepping down later this year.

The sources said the board, chaired by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, will meet in Mumbai on May 7.

Various cost-saving measures, CEO succession plans, financials for 2025-26 fiscal year as well as other issues are expected to be discussed during the meeting, the sources said.

Tata Sons and Air India did not offer comments.

DH INTERVIEW

'Focus on strengthening Nissan's presence in key segments'

Nissan is gearing up for its next phase in India with a renewed product push, with three cars lined up this year alongside its established offering, the Magnite. In a bid to deliver stronger value to customers, the Japanese automaker is sharpening its market focus and aiming to scale up volumes in highly-competitive segments. From a current sub-1% market share to a strong product roadmap and expanding exports, the company is betting on a more focused strategy going forward. Nissan Motor India Managing Director **Saurabh Vatsa** lays out the road ahead in a candid interview with *DH*'s **Hrithik Kiran Bagade**. *Edited excerpts:*

Nissan was among the top five passenger vehicle makers in India in the mid-2010s, with strong growth and well-received models like the Micra and Terrano. How did the journey evolve after that?

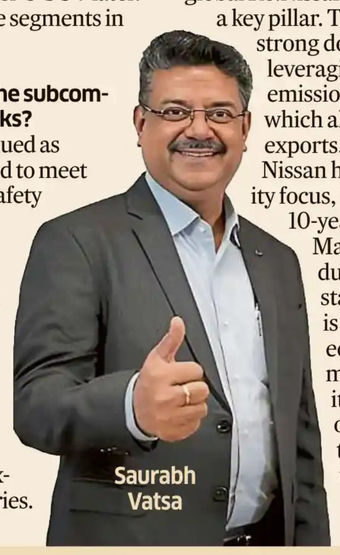
Nissan first entered India in 1965 through a contract with the Ministry of Defence. The Patrol P610 was licensed and produced as the Jonga at the Jabalpur Ordnance and Guncarriage Assembly. Production continued until 1999, with the Armed Forces deploying it widely across terrains, and in its final years, it was also supplied to civilians. The brand returned with multiple products and a clear focus on technology. The Micra introduced features like push-button start, while the Sunny stood out for its spacious rear legroom. Over time, Nissan introduced around 13 vehicles in India. Manufacturing is based in Chennai, with a strong parallel focus on exports alongside the domestic portfolio.

In 2019, Nissan brought the Magnite as a key entry model to reset its direction in India. It has been a strong success, consistently delivering 30,000-35,000 units annually for several years, with around 24,000 units last year. This single-product performance reinforced the brand's equity in India.

The momentum led to renewed investment of over 700 million euros for upcoming products, in addition to the 100 million euros spent on the Magnite facelift for both LHD and RHD markets, opening access to over 65 countries. The Sunny also continues to be manufactured in Chennai and exported to West Asia and South Africa. The next phase includes three products: the just-launched Gravite 7-seater, the Tecton C-SUV (5-seater) in the middle of the year, and a larger 7-seater C-SUV later. These will span multiple segments in the Indian market.

What happened with the subcompact crossover SUV Kicks?

The Kicks was discontinued as the portfolio transitioned to meet evolving emission and safety standards. The focus shifted to the Magnite, which now serves as a full B-SUV offering with naturally aspirated and turbo engines, manual, AMT and CVT options, and E20 compliance. It also supports CNG kits, LHD and RHD configurations, and is exported to over 65 countries.


Saurabh Vatsa

At a time when several carmakers exited India, Nissan stayed committed. Did exports shape a more low-key domestic presence?

Exports were essential to sustaining the business, especially given the small domestic share. However, under the global Re:Nissan strategy, India is now a key pillar. The focus is to build strong domestic products, while leveraging India's stringent emission and safety standards, which also support global exports.

Nissan has maintained quality focus, including offering a 10-year warranty on the Magnite. This reflects durability and reliability standards. The company is also building a stronger ecosystem around new models and expanding its network to over 250 outlets across 180 cities the next fiscal year, up from 170 outlets in 135 cities. Expansion includes deeper metro penetration and Tier 2-4 cities, including 8-10 outlets in Bengaluru.

With current market share under 1%, how do you plan to grow it?

The focus is not on chasing market share but on strengthening presence in key segments. With a 500,000-unit capacity alliance plant in Chennai, the company is targeting 100,000 domestic and 100,000 export units next fiscal. The upcoming three products will support this growth.

Are you planning to expand into EVs?

We will communicate what we do and deliver what we commit. Multiple technologies are under development, which will be revealed at the appropriate time.

Many carmakers now offer feature-rich vehicles at accessible prices. Will Nissan move in that direction?

Cars today are becoming highly feature-loaded, much like smartphones, but customers often use only a fraction of those features. It is important to balance affordability with aspiration, build quality, and meaningful features. The Magnite continues to reflect this value approach, and future products will be equipped with segment-relevant technologies and features.

Is the strategy about aggressive pricing, considering that the Gravite starts at Rs 5.65 lakh?

The strategy is not just about pricing, but overall value-creation. A strong ecosystem is being built around the Gravite. Rather than entering a price war, the emphasis will remain on delivering value through design, performance, features, and the overall ownership experience.

Is there a plan to bring Infiniti to India?

The current focus is on strengthening the Nissan brand in India. Introducing another brand would require a separate network, investment, and strategic focus. For now, the priority is to rebuild Nissan's presence, improve customer experience, and expand the portfolio before considering additional brands.

Tips to save some money on international vacation

The vacation season is here. The newspapers are full of one-page advertisements on tours. Despite the global tensions, vacation travel is still on. While international vacations are typically planned in much detail, months in advance, there are some easy ways to reduce expenses on these international trips.

The Basics

Firstly, set a budget and then build the trip around it. After all travel memories should last longer than the bills that follow! There is a tendency these days to use credit cards and convert expenses to EMIs, which means paying high interest rates, which basically translates to paying almost 1.5X of the actual expenses.

To budget for the vacation, consider keeping aside an amount every month into a vacation fund. Even if you are not planning a trip in the near future, keep allocating to this fund, to eventually build a good corpus. This fund can be invested in an ultra-short/low duration debt fund.

The Specifics

One can also consider using credit card reward points for hotels/ airline bookings. Credit card reward points can be redeemed for various things like shopping vouchers, statement credit as well as transfer to hotel/airline partners.

While statement credit may be the easiest to do, it gives the worst value as compared to the other options. While voucher redemptions offer better rates, airlines/ hotel transfer give almost double the value. However, the airline/ hotel transfer can be restrictive as one will need to align only with a particular hotel/airline.

Choosing a card with a tie- up with a global hotel chain/airline would be the best way to use credit card points and save on the vacation expenses.

MRIN AGARWAL
FINANCIAL EDUCATOR & FOUNDER DIRECTOR OF FINSAFE INDIA PVT LTD

Another effective way to manage these expenses is by opting for cards that offer low or zero foreign exchange markup. In most cases, banks levy a 3–5% fee on international transactions to facilitate currency conversion, which can significantly increase the overall spend. There are a variety of preloaded travel cards available and one must check all the charges like currency markup to load the card, ATM withdrawal fees and other restrictions.

The Must Have

Travel insurance is an absolute must in any international vacation, where costs and complexity can escalate quickly.

Travel insurance offers comprehensive coverage across a wide range of unforeseen situations, including medical emergencies, baggage loss, flight disruptions and even fatal accidents.

Travellers should choose insurance that covers medical emergencies, hospitalisation, evacuation, trip cancellation/interruption and loss of baggage/passport.

While travel insurance premiums tend to be very low, one needs to check the coverage limits, claim process in the policy and how quickly assistance is available.

Do note that pre-existing conditions, adventure sports, substance abuse and war are excluded. Not disclosing all facts properly can lead to claim rejection.

Thus, utmost care must be taken to disclose all material facts to avoid being saddled with huge medical bills. A simple hospitalization can run into thousands of dollars. High covers are a must. A family of 4 should take at least $2,50,000 cover.

Financially well-planned trips ensure that the only thing one brings back is memories, not money worries.

Fear of layoffs grips IT industry

AI certifications may open doors into new hiring funnels but are not an insurance to secure the current jobs

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

"There was a constant fear that an email from HR could land any day. One day, it did. I was called to the office the next morning, completed my exit formalities, and just like that, years of hard work meant nothing." Supriya (name changed), in her late 30s, an operations manager at Amazon Web Services, said. She brings over 13 years of IT experience from Accenture, Infosys, and HCLTech. She joined Amazon in November 2024 on a Rs 50 LPA package. In January 2026, she was impacted in the company's third round of layoffs.

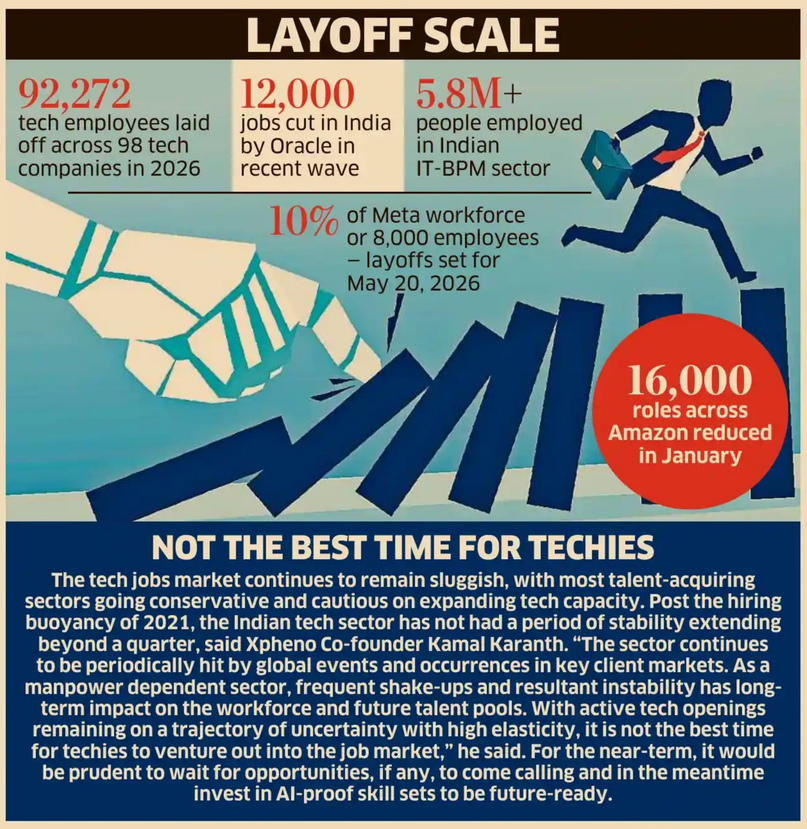
Layoff anxiety has gripped the IT workforce for over a year, sharpening in the past six months. Macro headwinds, cuts in client spending, AI deflation, and a shift away from the traditional hiring pyramid are reshaping an industry in the middle of an AI-led transformation. *DH* spoke to employees recently laid off from TCS, Amazon, and Oracle — many of whom had completed all mandatory AI certifications and upskilling programmes. They requested anonymity since final settlements are still pending.

In September 2025, Sumit, in his early 40s, was laid off from Oracle, where he worked for close to a decade. Unlike the recent layoff that cut about 12,000 jobs in India, there were no rumours of pink slips then — the news came as a shock.

Oracle eliminated at least 3,000 roles that month as part of a restructuring to accelerate its AI expansion. Since then, Sumit has sent around 50 applications, but received no callbacks. "Forget interviews, the job market is so bad that we aren't even getting calls," he said. He believes severance pay should be tax-free: "We could survive two or three more months with that money."

DH spoke to other laid-off employees who shared similar experiences — no callbacks despite upskilling. Sumit used the break to earn DevOps certifications, but it hasn't led to offers. "I'll give it one more year. If nothing works, I have to think of other options. Even teaching crossed my mind," he said.

"We worked in the company for 10-15 years. At least conduct a call and announce layoffs, instead of just sending an email," said another laid-off employee, now struggling with home and car loans.


LAYOFF SCALE
92,272
tech employees laid off across 98 tech companies in 2026
12,000
jobs cut in India by Oracle in recent wave
5.8M+
people employed in Indian IT-BPM sector
10% of Meta workforce or 8,000 employees – layoffs set for May 20, 2026
16,000
roles across Amazon reduced in January
NOT THE BEST TIME FOR TECHIES
The tech jobs market continues to remain sluggish, with most talent-acquiring sectors going conservative and cautious on expanding tech capacity. Post the hiring buoyancy of 2021, the Indian tech sector has not had a period of stability extending beyond a quarter, said Xpheno Co-founder Kamal Karanth. "The sector continues to be periodically hit by global events and occurrences in key client markets. As a manpower dependent sector, frequent shake-ups and resultant instability has long-term impact on the workforce and future talent pools. With active tech openings remaining on a trajectory of uncertainty with high elasticity, it is not the best time for techies to venture out into the job market," he said. For the near-term, it would be prudent to wait for opportunities, if any, to come calling and in the meantime invest in AI-proof skill sets to be future-ready.

Since layoffs can come without warning, anxiety is widespread. "We all discuss this at the office and are very uncertain about the future," said a quality analyst at an IT services firm.

Beyond formal layoffs, companies are also pushing voluntary attrition — HR heads call employees and ask them to resign.

In the March quarter, Cognizant, which announced layoffs, modified its definition of 'Voluntary Attrition — Tech Services' to exclude certain categories of negotiated separations.

According to Layoffs.fyi, which tracks tech layoffs, globally, over 92,000 tech employees have been laid off so far in 2026 alone. Though India numbers alone are not available since companies do not break down layoffs according to countries, company filings indicate that thousands of techies lost jobs in FY26.

A Nasscom report suggests that the Indian IT-BPM industry employs over 5.8 million people.

HR experts said the IT industry was over-hired during the Covid period and now that they are restructuring and investing more in AI, layoffs will continue to happen. Meta will lay off 10% of its workforce or about 8,000 employees and a major restructuring is scheduled for May 20. International media reports highlighted that Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg acknowledged that his company's spending on AI has contributed to layoffs at Meta. According to reports, Microsoft will offer voluntary retirement to thousands of employees.

Is AI really to blame?

There is no denying that AI is impacting industries at different speeds, said Aditya Singh, Founder at Benevolve, a HR tech platform.

"We are living through one of the fastest transformations of work since the Industrial and Internet Revolutions, both of which reshaped how companies operate and how people work, while driving economic growth. The difference now is speed: what took nearly 80 years during the Industrial Revolution and about 15 years during the Internet era is now expected to occur in less than five years," he said.

He added that this is a classic transformation cycle displacement followed by reinvention and job creation, but accelerated.

"Organisations are restructuring for short-term efficiency, often leading to layoffs, which in some cases are necessary. However, the bigger issue is how decisions are made. Many companies lack clarity on future capabilities and don't have the data to assess their workforce effectively. Without a granular understanding of skills, especially meta-skills, redeployment becomes difficult, making layoffs a default rather than a strategic choice," he said.

Many laid-off employees completed upskilling programmes and earned AI certifications, yet interview calls remain scarce. Supriya, who holds two AI certifications, said, "If certifications really helped, I would have a job by now. So many people have upskilled, but where are the jobs? After 13-15 years in IT, you can't just switch to industries like manufacturing. Mid-level employees face too many barriers."

Whether AI-led restructuring is targeting mid-level employees? Sonica Aron, Founder of AI advisory firm Marching Sheep, said mid-level roles are particularly impacted because they traditionally sit in coordination and execution layers— areas now being augmented or streamlined by AI. However, this is not a limitation of capability, but often of adaptability. Those who proactively evolve — by building adjacent skills, embracing new tools, and shifting from task execution to problem-solving — continue to stay relevant, Aron said.

However, Ankush Sabharwal, Founder and CEO of CoRover.ai, has a different view. According to him, mid-level professionals are actually sitting on the biggest opportunity in this AI era.

"Instead of a team of ten, two well-coordinated professionals who know how to prompt, review, and orchestrate AI effectively can deliver superior outcomes for senior leadership. The coordinator who masters AI tools becomes exponentially more valuable than a large technical team working without them. This is a transitional phase. Mid-level managers who proactively recruit AI agents, augment their teams' capabilities, and drive efficiency will become indispensable. Middle managers who ignore AI will not lose their jobs to AI, they will lose them to another middle manager who knows AI and has adopted it well at work," he stated.

He added that the future rewards those who lead with AI, not those who resist it.

As IT services firms roll out AI tools, clients are demanding AI-led delivery — forcing teams to downsize. "This is happening across the industry. We were a 10-member team, but after adopting AI tools, our client asked us to reduce the headcount," said an IT employee. Tech firms are now cutting jobs to fund AI infrastructure investments.

AI certifications may open doors into new hiring funnels, but are not an insurance to secure the current job, said Kamal Karanth, Co-founder, Xpheno — a specialist staffing firm.

The current buzz among enterprises is for the services-end of AI, and not as much in the core-engineering-end. India is an AI services market, while the largest parts of core-AI engineering are happening abroad. So the ability of talent to stay relevant in the AI funnel also depends on which end of the AI spectrum is the enterprise interested in and investing into. As much as AI is a leveller or sorts, it can also be a sharp differentiator among similar-looking profiles travelling at different velocities in a hiring funnel, he added.

WEEK AHEAD

Mkts may consolidate with positive bias

Stock-specific action may dominate, driven by the ongoing earnings season

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

Indian equity markets are expected to consolidate with a positive bias in the week ahead. While global headwinds and intermittent volatility continue to weigh on sentiment, supportive domestic cues — particularly the ongoing earnings season and steady domestic inflows — are providing a cushion on the downside. However, crude touching multi-year highs of ₹$120 per barrel, rupee near record lows, and persistent FII outflows remain key near-term overhangs.

In this backdrop, stock-specific action is likely to dominate, driven by the ongoing earnings season. Key results due this week include Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, Lupin, Dabur, Shree Cement, Bank of Baroda and CG Power among others. Additional US-focused economic data to be released this week include S&P Global Services PMI, non-manufacturing PMI, and employment data.

Last week, equities demonstrated resilience, with the Nifty 50 closing with modest gains of +0.4% despite persistent global macro headwinds. The index traded in a broad range, with downside supported by sustained DII buying that offset FII outflows, alongside support from the ongoing earnings season. Broader markets mirrored this resilience, as the Nifty Midcap 100 rose +0.7% and the Nifty Smallcap 100 gained +2.5%, both ending the week in positive territory. On a monthly basis, markets delivered a strong rebound, with the Nifty 50 gaining +7.5%, while the Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 outperformed with returns of +13.6% and +18.4%, respectively.

Sectorally, Nifty Pharma was the outperformer for the week [+3.6%], benefiting from its defensive characteristics and rupee tailwind. PSU Banks were the notable laggard [-6.3%] for the week, after the RBI rejected industry requests to defer the implementation of its Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework or soften its provisioning floors. The ECL framework — introduced last year and effective April 1, 2027 — shifts banks from the current incurred-loss model to a forward-looking approach, requiring a minimum 5% provision on Stage 2 assets against the current 0.4%. PSBs, with lower provision buffers and a higher share of marginal credit, are disproportionately exposed relative to private peers.

The Q4 FY26 results season has been broadly steady so far. Of the 61 companies in MOFSL's coverage universe that have reported — including 17 Nifty-50 constituents — Sales, EBITDA and PAT have grown 12%, 10% and 12% respectively, marginally ahead of estimates. Of the 61 companies, 29 have exceeded PAT estimates while 12 have missed. BFSI has been the standout, with earnings growth of ₹18% led by private banks and NBFC-lending. Earnings are expected to drive stock-specific action going forward.

Crude oil at multi-year highs — Brent touching $120 per barrel intraweek — remained the dominant macro variable, simultaneously pressuring the rupee, widening the current account and lifting inflation expectations. The rupee hit a fresh all-time low, reflecting the two-variable pressure that has persisted through April — elevated crude and persistent FII outflows exceeding Rs 69,000 crore for the month. A sustained recovery in the rupee requires either a meaningful crude pullback or credible geopolitical de-escalation — neither of which appears imminent.

Globally, the US Fed, Bank of Japan, and ECB held rates last week, delivering uniformly hawkish messages as the energy price shock has raised the threshold for rate cuts. For India, sustained dollar strength and a narrower interest rate differential limit the RBI's room for easing even if domestic conditions evolve.

Defence and shipbuilding continue as strong structural themes. India is set to acquire Russian R-37M long-range air-to-air missiles in a $1.2 billion deal. Recent engagements — including progress on a submarine cooperation roadmap with Germany, agreements with South Korea on shipbuilding, semiconductors and defence, and potential talks with Italy — along with the upcoming Quad ministerial meeting, underscore India's push toward greater indigenisation, technology partnerships, and export opportunities. A robust order pipeline and improving execution are expected to keep investor focus on these areas.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, MOFSL)

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Granules
(ID: GRANULES)
BUY
Upside +17%**
Last close ₹701
Target: ₹820*

UltraTech Cement
(ID: ULTRACEMCO)
BUY
Upside +19%**
Last close ₹11,597
Target: ₹13,800*

Radico Khaitan
(ID: RADICO)
BUY
Upside +12%**
Last close ₹3,435
Target: ₹3,850*

Canara HSBC Life Ins
(ID: CANHLIFE)
BUY
Upside +28%**
Last close ₹141
Target: ₹180*

Aditya Birla Capital
(ID: ABCAPITAL)
BUY
Upside +20%**
Last close ₹345
Target: ₹415*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

DH REVIEW

OnePlus Pad 4: Packed with features that matter

ROHIT K V N
BENGALURU, DHNS

Last week, OnePlus launched the new Pad 4 series in India.

The premium Android tablet comes in two configurations — 8GB RAM + 256GB storage and 12GB RAM + 512GB storage — for Rs 59,999 and Rs 64,999, respectively.

Design, build quality and display

The Pad 4 series carries forward its predecessor's design language with refinements.

It features a premium metal enclosure with a slim unibody chassis, and is available in two colours — Dune Glow and Sage Mist.

The tablet measures just 5.94 mm in thickness and weighs 672 grams. The bezels on the sides are perfectly sized for resting the fingers, ensuring that they don't interfere when watching a movie or reading an e-book.

It has smooth rails with curved corners around the display. On the back, it has a single main camera with an LED flash in the top left corner. The device can easily slip in and out of any regular backpack and doesn't take up much space.

Considering it has a big display with a slim body, prospective buyers are advised to get a folio case. Or if there is more cash to splurge, one can go for the smart keyboard-cum-cover case.

Spec Sheet
Display:
13.2" 3.4K, 144Hz, Dolby Vision, 1,000 nits brightness
Performance:
Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5, up to 12GB RAM, Android 16 (OxygenOS 16)
Battery & Extras:
13,380mAh, 80W fast charging, supports OnePlus Stylo Pro stylus
Configurations & Price:
8GB + 256GB Storage
Rs 59,999
12GB + 512GB Storage
Rs 64,999

The Pad 4 sports a big 13.2-inch 3.4K (3392x2400p) display with Dolby Vision, 12-bit colour depth, supports peak brightness up to 1,000 nits and has a pixel density of 315 ppi.

It also supports a 144Hz adaptive refresh rate for smooth scrolling, animations, and gameplay. It has touch sampling rates of up to 540Hz to deliver highly-responsive, low-latency input. It also comes with a 7:5 ReadFit aspect ratio and an 89.4% screen-to-body ratio.

The OnePlus tablet features a Type-C v3.2 USB port, Bluetooth 6.0, Wi-Fi 7.0, an eight hi-fi speaker system with four woofers and four tweeters, and supports passcode, pattern and face-based biometric security. However, it misses out on the fingerprint sensor.

Performance

The OnePlus Pad 4 is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 backed by 8GB/12GB LPDDR5X RAM, 256GB/512GB UFS 4.1 storage and Android 16-based OxygenOS 16.

The device works smoothly. Be it loading apps or playing games, there was no noticeable lag.

The device comes with Cryo-velocity Cooling technology, which covers a 45,260mm2 area on the back panel, almost 17% bigger than its predecessor. This ensures that the device remains cool when performing heavy-duty tasks such as playing AAA games or running GenAI applications.

Besides Gemini Live and Circle to Search, the Pad 4 supports several native GenAI features, including AI Writer, AI Summary, AI Translate, AI Painter, AI Recorder, AI Clear Call (during voice/video calling on messenger apps), and more.

On the front, it houses an 8MP camera, which is good for video calling and can record full HD 1080p at 30 fps.

It also features a 13MP main camera on the back, which can record 4K at 30 fps. The device is also compatible with the OnePlus Stylo Pro stylus (must be purchased separately), and supports up to 16,000 pressure levels for precise writing, sketching, and navigation. It offers a balanced grip and supports intuitive gestures like pinch, double-tap, and swipe. This way, it provides seamless control while drawing on the screen.

The OnePlus tablet houses a massive 13,380mAh battery. It can stream videos for up to 20 hours at a stretch and play games for close to seven hours.

It supports 80W SuperVOOC fast-charging and takes around two hours to reach from zero to 100%.

Final thoughts

The OnePlus Pad 4, much like its predecessor, is a feature-rich tablet. It sports a good display, an attractive design with premium build-quality, smooth performance, and impressive battery life for multimedia consumption.

Mcap of top-4 most-valued firms surges

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of four of the top-10 most-valued firms surged by Rs 2.20 lakh crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer.

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 249.29 points or 0.32%.

"Markets ended the week with marginal gains, reflecting a volatile and range-bound trading environment amid mixed global and domestic cues," Ajit Mishra — SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

However, gains were gradually capped by rising crude oil prices, weak cues from Asian markets, and persistent FII outflows, Mishra added.

While Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Bajaj Finance were the gainers from the pack, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Hindustan Unilever and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) faced a combined erosion of Rs 1.24 lakh crore from their valuation. Reliance Industries added Rs 1,39,655.8 crore taking its market valuation to Rs 19,36,303.30 crore.

Bharti Airtel's valuation surged Rs 43,503.51 crore to Rs 11,49,222.13 crore.

Taiwan prez begins Eswatini trip; China calls him a 'rat'

TAIPEI, REUTERS: Taiwan has a right to engage with the world and no country can stop that, President Lai Ching-te told Eswatini's king after he arrived for a surprise trip that Taipei says Beijing tried to stop, as China condemned him as a "rat".

China views democratically governed Taiwan as part of its territory with no right to state-to-state ties, a position Taiwan's government strongly disputes, and Beijing has demanded countries stop any engagements with the island.

Last month, Taiwan said China had forced three Indian Ocean countries to pull overflight permission for Lai's aircraft to travel to the small southern African kingdom of Eswatini for the 40th anniversary of King Mswati III's accession. It is one of only 12 countries with formal ties with Taipei.

"The Republic of China, Taiwan, is a sovereign nation and a Taiwan that belongs to the world," Lai told the king, referring to Taiwan's official name, in comments provided by the presidential office on Sunday.

2 dead, 16 hurt in attempted channel crossing from France to UK

PARIS, AP: A small boat carrying migrants trying to cross the English Channel ran aground on a beach in northern France, leaving two dead and 16 people injured, including three with serious burns, authorities said Sunday.

The vessel, carrying 82 people, set out overnight from Hardelot beach, a few kilometres (miles) south of the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer, but the engine failed and it began to drift, Christophe Marx, secretary-general of the Pas-de-Calais prefecture, told reporters.

A French maritime gendarmerie vessel rescued 17 people and brought them to Boulogne-sur-Mer, while the makeshift boat ran aground with 65 others still on board.

Two women were found dead, most likely from suffocation, Marx said. They are believed to have been "crushed or asphyxiated, as unfortunately often happens on boats ... where too many people are packed in," he said.

Canada declares Khalistan extremists a 'security threat'

Says group uses institutions for its violent extremist agenda in country

OTTAWA, PTI

People protest in support of Khalistan outside the Triveni Mandir in Brampton, Ontario, on Sunday. AP/PTI FILE

THREAT TO NATION

- Canadian Security Intelligence Service, in its 2025 Public Report highlighted involvement of Khalistani extremist in violent activities
- Khalistani extremist groups demand the creation of a sovereign state within India and are designated as terrorist organisations by New Delhi

Canada's intelligence agency has declared Khalistani extremists a "national security threat", adding that the group uses institutions to promote its "violent extremist agenda" in the country.

Canadian Security Intelligence Service, in its 2025 Public Report, highlighted that involvement of Canada-based Khalistani extremist (CBKE) in violent activities "continues to pose a national security threat to Canada and to Canadian interests." "Some CBKEs are well connected to Canadian citizens who leverage Canadian institutions to promote their violent extremist agenda and collect funds from unsuspecting community members that are then diverted toward violent activities," the report issued on Canadian Government's website on Friday said.

Khalistani extremist groups demand the creation of a sovereign state within India and are designated as terrorist organisations by New Delhi because of their involvement in separatist activities.

The report comes a year after the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Air India Flight 182, whose suspects were members of the CBKE groups.

"It remains to this day the deadliest terrorist attack in Canadian history, with 329 people killed, most of them Canadians," it said. The report, however, said that non-violent advocacy for the creation of a state of Khalistan is not considered extremism, and some Canadians participate in legitimate and peaceful campaigning to support the Khalistan separatist movement.

"Only a small group of individuals who use Canada as a base to promote, fundraise, or plan violence primarily in India are considered Khalistani extremists," it said.

Rubio to visit Vatican, Rome after Trump row

ROME, AFP: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will visit Rome and the Vatican this week, an Italian government source said Sunday, weeks after President Donald Trump's stinging criticism of Pope Leo XIV.

Italian media reported that Rubio would meet the US pontiff himself on Thursday, but there was no immediate confirmation of this.

Newspapers presented the visit by Rubio -- a Catholic -- as a meeting to "thaw" relations.

The government source told AFP that Rubio would meet Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

The meetings come just weeks after Trump's extraordinary criticism of Pope Leo over the Catholic leader's anti-war rhetoric.

The source said Rubio had asked for a meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, one of Trump's closest European allies, whom he turned on after she defended the pope.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Security personnel escort Brazilian activist Thiago Avila to a court in Ashkelon on Sunday. Two foreign activists from a Gaza-bound flotilla who were brought to Israel for interrogation appeared before an Israeli court. AFP

US Prez hints at the release of new batch of UFO files

▶ President Donald Trump says the Pentagon is preparing to release some "very interesting" UFO files uncovered by his administration, generating a mix of buzz and scepticism as he hints at new revelations around questions of alien life, reports AP from Washington.

Trump started stoking interest in the extraterrestrial in February, directing federal agencies to release their records related to extraterrestrial life and UFOs. Since then, he has built suspense with tantalizing updates, teasing an imminent release of documents never before shared by the US government.

"We're going to be releasing a lot of things that we haven't," Trump said Wednesday at a White House event celebrating Nasa astronauts. "I think some of it's going to be very interesting to people." Trump has relished in portraying himself as the president who spills the secrets. In the buildup to that release, Trump said "the American people deserve transparency and truth." Now, as he turns to the sky, the president has struck a similar tone, suggesting answers to decades-old questions may be on the way. His February directive on social media called for transparency around "alien and extraterrestrial life.

Over 130 foreigners held in SL

▶ More than 130 foreign nationals were arrested in Sri Lanka for alleged cybercrime operations over the last two days, police said, reports PTI from Colombo.

The police actions are part of a wider crackdown on cross-border online fraud networks operating from the island nation.

In a raid in Thalangama, a suburb of Colombo, the police arrested 37 Chinese nationals on Saturday.

One of them was a woman, two of them did not have valid visas, and one did not possess a passport, according to the police.

All of them were aged between 24 and 44.

In a separate raid on Sunday, more than 100 people were arrested in Rajagiriya, another Colombo suburb.

Those arrested in the second raid were from different countries that include China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Madagascar, the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia.

They were operating from a rented apartment, the police said.

India's Ambassador to China-designate Vikram Doraiswami (L) is welcomed by Charge d'Affaires of the Indian Embassy Angeline Premalatha on his arrival in Beijing, China. PTI

2 US troops missing in Morocco

▶ Two US service members are missing in southwestern Morocco after taking part in annual multinational military exercises in the North African country, the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) said on Sunday, reports AP from Rabat.

The US, Morocco and other countries participating in the African Lion exercise have launched a search and rescue operation, AFRICOM said.

"The incident remains under investigation, and the search is ongoing," it said in a statement.

The incident happened on May 2 near the Cap Draa Training Area near Tan Tan, close to the Atlantic Ocean. The war games exercise started in April and runs across four countries, including Tunisia, Ghana and Senegal. It is scheduled to end in early May.

African Lion, which has been running since 2004, is the largest US annual joint military exercise on the continent and usually features high-ranking military officials from the US and its top African allies.

Israel issues new evacuation warnings in south Lebanon

JERUSALEM, AFP

Israel to buy US fighter jets

Israel said on Sunday it had approved a multi-billion-dollar deal to acquire two combat squadrons of fighter jets from the United States, reports AFP. The purchase includes a squadron of F-35 multi-role stealth fighters from Lockheed Martin and another of F-15IA warplanes from Boeing, the defence ministry said.

Israel's military on Sunday issued new evacuation warnings in southern Lebanon for villages beyond the area it occupies, despite a truce with Lebanon intended to halt fighting with Iran-backed Hezbollah.

"For your safety, you must evacuate your homes immediately and move away from the villages and towns by at least 1,000 metres into open areas," the military's Arabic-language spokesman Avichay Adraee posted on X.

The warning covers more than 10 villages and towns including several in the district of Nabatieh, which lies north of the Litani River, south of which Israel has stationed troops.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency later reported a series of Israeli strikes across southern Lebanon, including on towns not mentioned in the evacuation warning.

Since April 17 a fragile ceasefire has been in place between Israel and Lebanon, which was aimed at pausing the violence between the Hezbollah militant group and Israel's military.

On Wednesday Israel's military chief of staff Eyal Zamir had threatened to strike Hezbollah "beyond the yellow line", which marks the area of Israeli control. "Any threat, anywhere, against our communities or our forces -- including beyond the Yellow Line and north of Litani -- will be eliminated," he said during a visit to Israeli troops.

In the past week two soldiers and an army contractor have been killed by drone attacks in the area, with dozens of soldiers wounded. Hezbollah has recently begun using cheap drones controlled by fibre-optic cable.

Kyiv hits Russian oil sites as five killed in both countries

Zelenskyy vows to step up strikes if Moscow doesn't halt invasion

KYIV, AFP

A resident walks at the site of a Russian drone strike, near the city of Chornomorsk, Odesa region, on Sunday. REUTERS

Ukraine said on Sunday it had hit several Russian ships -- a cruise missile carrier and three shadow fleet tankers -- as both sides fired hundreds of drones in a spree that killed at least five people.

Three were killed in Ukraine, one in Russia and one in Russian-occupied southern Ukraine, according to statements by local officials.

The two neighbours have been firing hundreds of explosive-packed drones at each other on a daily basis throughout the four-year war, as talks to end the conflict have gone nowhere.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday vowed to step up Kyiv's retaliatory strikes on Russian energy sites if Moscow did not halt its invasion. "Russia can end its war at any moment. Prolonging the war will only expand the scale of our defensive operations," he said on social media.

The Ukrainian leader said his troops had struck a vessel equipped with cruise missiles at the port of Primorsk, in Russia's northwestern Leningrad region.

The region's oil export terminals have been hit several times in recent weeks, knocking out billions of dollars' worth of exports, according to Kyiv.

Zelenskyy said three of Russia's so-called shadow tankers -- ageing vessels that ferry its sanctioned oil around the world -- were struck, one at Primorsk and two off the southern Black Sea port of Novorossiysk.

He posted black-and-white night-vision footage of a naval drone approaching one tanker at Novorossiysk.

Kremlin warns of oil price rise

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Sunday that global oil prices may rise further if Ukraine continues to hit Russia's oil infrastructure. "If additional volumes of our oil are dropped from the market, prices will rise further from current levels, which are already above $120 a barrel. That would mean that even with lower export volumes, our companies would earn more money," Peskov said.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
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No:MESCOM/IT/52/2025-IT Date: 30.04.2026

TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

MESCOM invites the tender from the prospective bidders for **"Supply, Installation and Configuration of Servers and SAN Storage devices with Warranty along with Annual Maintenance and Technical Support to MESCOM Data Center, Mangaluru"** vide Tender Enquiry No: **MESCOM/2026-27/IND0161.**

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **04.05.2026.** For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at **+91-9240214000 / 9240214001** or e-mail address: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

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Bengaluru - 560009.

No. PCKL/Legal Cell/2025-26/124/432 Date: 21.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

Notification for engagement of a One Legal Officer on Contract Basis

Power Company of Karnataka Limited (PCKL), a Government of Karnataka undertaking, issuing notification for engagement of a **Legal Officer on Contract basis.**

- **Qualification :** LLB with first class.
- **Age limit:** The Maximum age shall not exceed 45 years.
- **Experience:** Min. 3 years of experience as an Advocate with Bar Council Membership.

How to Apply : Interested candidates may apply by downloading the application through our website **www.pckl.karnataka.gov.in from 04.05.2026 to 03.06.2026.** For detailed advertisement, eligibility criteria and application procedure, please visit the PCKL website.

Last date for submission of Applications: 03.06.2026 on or before 5.30 pm.

Note : Incomplete applications will be summarily rejected. Management reserves the right to cancel or modify the recruitment process without notice.

For further details contact - **Deputy Director (Legal), Contact No.: 8277895893 Email: addl.director2018@gmail.com**

Sd/-
Additional Director (Projects)
PCKL, Bengaluru

Nepal cancels over 1,500 'politically motivated' hirings

KATHMANDU, PTI

Nepal's new government has effectively cancelled more than 1,500 major public appointments through a sweeping ordinance issued by President Ramchandra Paudel, local media reported.

These appointments were made before March 26 - the date marking leadership change in the country.

The Balendra Shah-led Rastriya Swatantra Party swept to power riding on the massive opposition to the legacy parties in the country in the March 5 elections, months after the September 2025 Gen Z protests.

President Ramchandra Paudel on Saturday issued the "Ordinance on Special Provisions for the Removal of Public Office Bearers, 2083" on the recommendation of the council of ministers, triggering widespread disruptions across Nepal's administrative, health and education sectors, according to The Kathmandu Post newspaper.

The move aims to target politically motivated appointments made by previous governments, including the Sushila Karki-led interim government formed after the 'Gen Z' movement, according to the reports.

It is not uncommon in Nepal for incoming governments to review decisions made by their predecessors, especially appointments to influential public posts. However, the scale of the current move appears wider than usual.

The move has drawn criticism from some who warn it could disrupt the functioning of public bodies, while government officials say it was needed to improve transparency and accountability.

The ordinance led to the dismissal of 1,594 "politically-appointed" office bearers across a wide range of sectors, leaving their positions vacant, myRepublica news outlet reported.

The provision mandates that all appointments made prior to March 26 are automatically terminated, regardless of tenure, benefits or terms of appointment.

The ordinance seems to have targeted a wide range of state-owned enterprises, regulatory bodies, councils, boards, research institutes, prominent universities and media organisations, according to the Kathmandu Post.

The government has yet to spell out a clear timeline or mechanism for fresh appointments.

Iran hangs man over killing of security forces

TEHRAN, AFP: Iran hanged a man on Sunday who had been convicted of involvement in the killing of a security forces volunteer during anti-government protests in 2022, state media said.

Mehrab Abdollahzadeh had been arrested in connection with months-long demonstrations which broke out in September that year following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, according to state television.

Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd, had been detained by Iran's morality police for allegedly violating the Islamic republic's dress code for women.

Trump's approval ratings dip ahead of midterms in November

WASHINGTON, PTI

US President Donald Trump. AP FILE

Ahead of the midterm elections in November, US President Donald Trump's overall approval ratings have dipped to 37%, and 66% Americans do not appreciate his handling of economic issues, a poll has found.

The US President gets his best ratings for handling immigration at the US-Mexico border with 45% approving of his policies, while 54% expressed disapproval, according to the Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll. Large numbers of Americans say they trust "neither" political party to handle major issues, including 23% who say this about immigration, 27% on the economy, 28% on crime and 33% on inflation.

A slight majority (51 per cent) trusts neither Republicans nor Democrats to handle artificial intelligence.

The Iran war has dented the confidence of Americans in Trump's handling of economic issues, which were crucial to his political comeback in 2024.

Americans disapprove of his handling of the situation with Iran by 66% to 33%. His rating on the economy has declined by seven points, to 34 per cent, as gas prices have spiked.

His approval rating on inflation has fallen five points in that time to 27% and his lowest rating comes on perceptions of his handling of the general cost of living, with 23% approving vs. 76% disapproving.

"Trump's overall approval now stands at 37%, largely the same as the 39% figure in February. But his disapproval has reached 62%, the highest of his two terms in office," the Washington Post said.

French tourists ride camels along a lagoon in the southern Tunisian resort island of Djerba on Sunday. This year's Jewish pilgrimage on the island is expected to welcome more worshippers after two years of scaled-down participation due to safety concerns. AFP

Prokofiev wins Ranquelino Cup

BENGALURU RESULTS

Prasanna Kumar-trained Prokofiev, ridden by Neeraj Rawal, lifted the Ranquelino Cup over 1400m, the main event of the races here on Sunday.

1. Royal Command Plate (Div II) 1400M: Blue Storm (Sans Craintes Stud Farm) Pavan 1, Lg's Script (Rozario) 2, Versace (Indrajeet Kumar) 3, Ransomware (P Kiran Rai) 4. Not run: Shock And Awe; WB: 5, 3, 6-3/4; T: 1:27.74; Tote: Rs 10w, 10, 10, 13p; Fc: Rs 46; Q: Rs 38; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 28; Tri: Rs 111 & 21; Exp: Rs 303 & 255; TB: I Ghatala; Fav: Blue Storm.

2. Belmont Park Plate (Div II) 1200M: Mnemosyne (SG Kundapur) Akshay Kumar 1, Night Raider (N Arvind Kumar) 2, Mutual Trust (Asirvatham) 3, Tiger Bay (S Shareef) 4; WB: 1-1/2, Shd, Nose.; T: 1:15.51; Tote: Rs 23w, 11, 10, 11p; Fc: Rs 71; Q: Rs 41; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 89 & 34; Exp: Rs 219 & 116; TB: Azhar Ali; Fav: Mnemosyne.

3. Royal Command Plate (Div I) 1400M: Fils De France (Rapar's Galloping) Antony Raj 1, Steffen (S Sachin) 2, Supreme Success (Suraj Narredu) 3, Breeze Bluster (R Vaibhav) 4; Not run: Allegro Dance; WB: 3, 2-1/4, 3-1/2; T: 1:28.51; Tote: Rs 17w, 10, 29, 13p; Fc: Rs 293; Q: Rs 163; Shp: Rs 88; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 675 & 152; Exp: Rs 7033 & 7033; TB: A Mangalorkar; Fav: Fils De France.

4. Belmont Park Plate (Div I) 1200M: Jade Mountain (S Sharath Narayana and Lakshman Gowda) P Trevor 1, Splendid Dream (Shreyas Singh) 2, Sapporo (Pavan) 3, Inicio (S Sachin) 4; Not run: Lockheed; WB: 3-1/4, 2-1/2, 3/4; T: 1:14.17; Tote: Rs 20w, 14, 12, 12p; Fc: Rs 54; Q: Rs 24; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 111 & 65; Exp: Rs 1551 & 1076; TB: V Lokanath; Fav: Splendid Dream.

5. Ranquelino Cup 1400M: Prokofiev (Poonawalla Racing Breeding Pvt Ltd) Neeraj Rawal 1, Rieko (P Trevor) 2, Crosswater (Aleemuddin) 3, Inspire (Antony Raj) 4; WB: 3-1/4, 1-1/4, 1L; T: 1:25.60; Tote: Rs 14w, 10, 12, 33p; Fc: Rs 30; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 83; Tri: Rs 416 & 254; Exp: Rs 507 & 122; TB: Prasanna Kumar; Fav: Prokofiev.

6. Welcome Plate 1200M: Bullet proof (Blazing Saddles, Marthanda Singh Mahindra, Rama Sesha Eyunni and MB Bhosale) P Trevor 1, Osaka (Suraj Narredu) 2, Monsters (Rozario) 3, Bellucci (N Arind Kumar) 4; WB: 4-1/4, 1-3/4, 3/4L; T: 1:14.42; Tote: Rs 16w, 10, 16, 41p; Fc: Rs 47; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 43; Thp: Rs 109; Tri: Rs 774 & 531; Exp: Rs 15,591 & 6682; TB: SS Attaollahi; Fav: Bulletproof.

7. Squanderer Plate (Div I) 1200M: Money Bags (Capt Jamshed J Appoo, K Manoj Kumar, K Kaliyaperumal and J Ramesh) P Trevor 1, Pole Star (K Mukesh Kumar) 2, Defence Counsel (Ryan Ahmed) 3, See The Light (Suraj Narredu) 4; WB: 7-1/2, 2-1/2, 1-1/4; T: 1:12.56; Tote: Rs 16w, 11, 17, 74p; Fc: Rs 72; Q: Rs 65; Shp: Rs 48; Thp: Rs 211; Tri: Rs 3284 & 2033; Exp: Rs 6340 & 1293; TB: Prasanna Kumar; Fav: Money Bags.

Jackpot: Rs 236 & 52. **Mini jackpot:** Rs 187. **I treble:** Rs 114. **II treble:** Rs 62.

FOOTBALL

Mainoo heroics in United win

Red Devils secure Champions League berth with a 3-2 defeat of Liverpool

MANCHESTER, AP

Manchester United guaranteed a return to the Champions League next season with a 3-2 win against Liverpool on Sunday.

Kobbie Mainoo settled a thrilling Premier League clash at Old Trafford with his first-time strike from the edge of the area.

Defending champion Liverpool had fought back from two goals down to level the game. But Mainoo's goal meant United would again be playing in European club soccer's top competition after a two-year absence.

To the delight of its fans, United also completed a league double of home-and-away wins against Liverpool for the first time since the 2015-16 campaign.

Victory saw Michael Carrick achieve the target he was set when in January he was handed the role of head coach until the end of the season. Rescuing United's season from freefall, he has led the club to third in the standings and produced statement wins against Arsenal, Manchester City and now Liverpool.

Victory will strengthen calls for Carrick to be handed the job on a permanent basis.

Matheus Cunha put United ahead after six minutes with a left-footed strike from inside the box and Benjamin Sesko doubled the lead in the 14th.

Bournemouth's Champions League bidBournemouth earlier strengthened its unlikely push for Champions League qualification with a 3-0 win against Crystal Palace.

Kobbie Mainoo's (left) third goal in the 77th minute helped Manchester United score a thrilling 3-2 victory over Liverpool at Old Trafford on Sunday. REUTERS

Bournemouth is sixth in the standings, with the top five guaranteed to qualify for the Champions League. That could be extended to the top six if Aston Villa wins the Europa League and finishes fifth.

Gunners' warning

Arsenal stormed six points clear at the top of the Premier League as Bukayo Saka and Viktor Gyokeres put Fulham to the sword in a 3-0 win, while West Ham's defeat at Brentford offered Tottenham a lifeline in the battle for survival.

Results (on Sunday): Manchester United: 3 (Matheus Cunha 6th, Benjamin Sesko 14th, Kobbie Mainoo 77th) bt Liverpool: 2 (Dominik Szoboszlai 47th, Cody Gakpo 56th); Bournemouth: 3 (Jefferson Lerma 10th OG, Eli Junior Kroupi 32nd, Rayan 77th) bt Crystal Palace: 0.

On Saturday: Arsenal: 3 (Gyokeres 9th, 45+4th, Saka 40th) bt Fulham: 0; Brentford: 3 (Konstantinos Mavropanos 15th OG, Igor Thiago 54th P, Mikkel Damsgaard 82nd) bt West Ham: 0.

Late goals push Barcelona towards glory

Robert Lewandowski and Ferran Torres took Barcelona to the brink of the La Liga title with late goals to earn them a 2-1 win at Osasuna on Saturday, reports AFP from Pamplona, Spain.

The Catalan giants moved 14 points clear of second-placed Real Madrid and will be crowned champions if their rivals drop points at Espanyol on Sunday.

Meanwhile Atletico Madrid rested most of their starters but got goals from two debutants as it won 2-0 at Valencia before it faces Arsenal for a place in the Champions League final.

Robert Lewandowski

Julian Alvarez, Alexander Sorloth and Giuliano Simeone, who all finished Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Arsenal with niggles, were among those players left off Atletico's squad for the Spanish league game.

Diego Simeone called up nine youth team players for the visit to Valencia, with Iker Luque and Miguel Cubo coming on in the second half and scoring in the 73rd and 82nd for the win at Mestalla Stadium.

Meanwhile in Pamplona, Lewandowski headed home after 81 minutes to break the deadlock, with Torres slotting in a second with four minutes to go.

Osasuna pulled one back through Raul Garcia late on but Barca secured the three points to close in on a second consecutive league title and a 29th in the club's history.

Results: Osasuna: 1 (Raul Garcia 88th) Barcelona: 2 (Robert Lewandowski 81st, Ferran Torres 86th); Valencia: 0 It to Atletico Madrid: 2 (Iker Luque 73rd, Miguel Cubo 82nd).

Indian shuttlers settle for bronze

Brilliant France score 3-0 win to punch final ticket

HORSENS (DENMARK), PTI

India's hopes of reclaiming the title ended in disappointment as they went down 0-3 to France in the semifinals of the Thomas Cup Finals, settling for a bronze medal here on Saturday.

The absence of Lakshya Sen proved costly as HS Prannoy joined Ayush Shetty and Kidambi Srikanth in defeat, losing 19-21, 16-21 to world No. 17 Toma Junior Popov, as India failed to win a single game in a completely one-sided contest.

India, champions in 2022, had already assured themselves of a medal by reaching the semifinals, adding to their bronze finishes in 1952, 1955 and 1979.

With the win, France became only the second European nation to reach the final after Denmark's maiden title in 2016.

Ayush, drafted into the opening singles with Lakshya nursing a swollen right elbow, went down 11-21, 9-21 in 39 minutes to world No. 4 Christo Popov.

All eyes were on Srikanth to restore parity, but the former world No. 1 went down fighting 16-21, 18-21 to world No. 10 Alex Lanier in the second singles.

The onus was then on Prannoy to keep India alive, and though the 2023 World Championships bronze medallist put up a better fight, he could not get past world No. 17 Popov.

Srikanth began on an even footing, matching his younger opponent at 3-3 in the opening game and mixing his strokes well with tight net play and steep smashes. However, Lanier stepped up the pace to open a lead at the interval.

With rallies kept short, Srikanth struggled with unforced errors and fell behind 9-14. Though he mounted a brief comeback to close the gap to 15-18, a net error halted his charge as Lanier converted his game points.

The second game followed a similar pattern. Srikanth recovered from an early deficit to draw level at 7-7, but Lanier's strategy of injecting pace and pressing the forecourt forced more errors from the Indian before his eventual defeat.

HS Prannoy lost to Toma Popov to confirm India's 0-3 defeat to France in the semifinals of the Thomas Cup in Horsens, Denmark on Saturday night. BWF

Walsh flies to another world record in pool

MIAMI, AFP: American Gretchen Walsh lowered the 100m butterfly world record again on Saturday, winning in 54.33 seconds at the Fort Lauderdale Open.

Walsh sliced 27-hundredths of a second off the previous world record of 54.60 she set in the same Florida pool at a Pro Swim meeting last May.

In fact, she broke the record twice in one day at last year's meeting and has now broken the record four times.

Gretchen Walsh

Walsh, winner of three world titles in Singapore last year, is now more than a second faster than the second-fastest woman in the history in the event, Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom, who owns a best of 55.48.

France's Olympic hero Leon Marchand captured two titles to take his tally for the week to four.

PERFECT GIFT

9-year-old Ayaan wears State open chess crown to create history

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ayaan Phutane got himself the perfect birthday gift as he clinched the Akshayakalpa Karnataka State Chess Championship, organised by Innovators Chess Academy, here on Sunday.

Ayaan, who will be celebrating his 10th birthday on Monday, tallied 8 points out of a maximum 9 to become the youngest player ever to wear an open event crown.

"I feel very happy about it. The special thing is that I won on the eve of my birthday and this is the best gift I could give myself," Ayaan told *DH*.

The Bengaluru boy produced an outstanding performance throughout the championship, scoring seven wins and two draws to remain unbeaten. Ayaan displayed remarkable consistency, strategic clarity and composure, playing chess that betrayed his age in a tournament where veterans like Sudharshan Bhat and Augustin A were in the fray.

Ayaan Phutane poses with the Karnataka State Chess Championship trophy.

"No, I was not nervous at all. When I play against big players it is an opportunity for me to improve my game," said Ayaan.

The final round added considerable drama to the title race. On the top board, Sudharshan defeated sole leader Advait Ratnakar Vibhute. On the second board, Siddhanth Poonja (2198) overcame Prashanth J Naik (1950), while Ayaan (1970) scored a crucial victory over Arul Anandh SPK (2159). Krishna (1979) also registered an important win against Venkata Naga Karthik Malladi (1922).

At the conclusion of the championship, Ayaan, Krishna, Sudharshan and Poonja all finished on 8 points. Ayaan secured the title on the basis of a superior tie-break score, completing a remarkable and historic run.

Diksha in title contention

PORT LOUIS (MAURITIUS), PTI: Indian golfer Diksha Dagar played a solid bogey-free 3-under 69 to move into title contention at the MCB Ladies Classic -- Mauritius on the Ladies European Tour here.

The two-time winner on the LET, Diksha shot 68 in the first round and moved to 7-under for two rounds. She is Tied-fourth and just two behind the co-leaders, Denmark's Smilla Tarning Soenderby, Germany's Celina Sattelkau and South Africa's Casandra Alexander. They were all at a total of nine-under-par.

Three of the four Indians in the field this week made the cut. Joining Diksha for the final round were Hitaashee Bakshi (71-69) and Tvesa Malik (70-71). Hitaashee was T-19 and Tvesa was T-26. Vani Kapoor (78-77) missed the cut.

Teen sensation Antonelli takes Miami GP pole

MIAMI, AFP: Mercedes' championship-leading teenager Kimi Antonelli stormed to pole position on Saturday for the Miami Grand Prix, resisting a late charge by four-time champion Max Verstappen in a tense qualifying session.

The 19-year-old Italian, the youngest title race leader in F1 history, produced a fastest lap of one minute 27.798 seconds to top the times ahead of Red Bull's Verstappen with Charles Leclerc third quickest in his Ferrari.

Kimi Antonelli

World champion Lando Norris, who won the sprint race earlier in the day, will start his McLaren from fourth in Sunday's grid.

It was Antonelli's third pole and his third in consecutive races, a feat that draws him alongside great former champions Ayrton Senna and Michael Schumacher in the record books.

His Mercedes team-mate George Russell was fifth ahead of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Ferrari and Oscar Piastri, who was seventh in the second McLaren.

Alpine's Franco Colapinto was eighth ahead of Isack Hadjar in the second Red Bull and Alpine's Pierre Gasly.

"It has been an amazing day for me to be on pole again," said Antonelli.

"It was obviously a difficult sprint (race) for me earlier, but I am super happy with this recovery. I got a little too excited in that last lap in Q3, but my first lap was good enough.

"I was so stressed because I was waiting for everyone to finish their laps, but it was good enough and now, hopefully, I will have a magic start tomorrow."

SCB, FCBU post crucial victories over Delhi clubs

BENGALURU, DHNS: SC Bengaluru and FC Bengaluru United gave their title chances a crucial push on Sunday as both the I-League 3 clubs posted crucial victories over Delhi clubs at different venues.

The biggest one was for FCBU, who defeated table toppers Delhi FC 3-1 at the Dravid-Padukone CSE Arena here through goals from Lijo K **(in pic)** (10th minute), Chunsaba Bariam (53rd) and Shunjanthan Ragui (87th). The result pushed FCBU (11 points from 6 matches) to the second spot on the table.

Results: FCBU: 3 (Lijo K 10th, Chunsaba Bariam 53rd, Shunjanathan Ragui 87th) bt Delhi: 1 (Akash Tirkey 51st); Sudeva: 0 It to SCB: 2 (Devadath S 53rd, V Vignesh 90+6th).

Agniputhra triumph

FC Agniputhra posted their second win of the season with a 2-0 victory over visiting New Friends Club, Dantewada at the CSE Arena in a Group D encounter of the I-League 3.

Two quick goals in the second half by Godwin Johnson (71st) and Senthamil S (75th) sealed the victory for the Group hosts, who remain atop the group with seven points in three matches.

Result: Agniputhra: 2 (Godwin Johnson 71st, Senthamil 75th) bt New Friends: 0

Kickstart recover

In a battle of the bottom two, Kickstart FC defeated last-placed SESA FA 3-0 in an Indian Women's League match in Kolkata.

Goals from Nigerian striker Emem Essien (17th), Nepalese midfielder Saru Limbu (29th) and Babysana Devi (67th) brought the much-needed three points for Kickstart.

Result: Kickstart: 3 (Emem Essien 17th, Saru Limbu 29th, Babysana Devi 67th) bt SESA: 0.

BFC campaign hits crossroads

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru FC will resume their hunt for a victory as they take on a struggling Odisha FC in their third-last match of the truncated Indian Super League season in Margao on Monday.

Coinciding with the arrival of their new foreign coach Pep Munoz, the Blues have gone winless in their last three matches, including a 0-0 draw against direct rivals Mumbai City FC in their last home match. This has severely impacted the last year's runners-up's chances to win the league, dropping them to sixth spot (16 points in 10 matches) after being tied at the top at one stage.

While Jamshedpur FC (21 points from 11) lead the table, defending champions Mohun Bagan (20 from 9) are seen as the team to beat. However, BFC have more than just the ISL shield to play for as the Champions League Two spot is also up for grabs.

Ryan Williams. BFC

In fact, winning the second-tier continental spot could be easier than winning the league, as the title favourites Mohun Bagan are currently serving a two-year suspension from the Asian Football Confederation for their refusal to travel to Iran for an ACL 2 match last year. Further, if third-placed FC Goa, who already sealed one of the two ACL 2 berths as Kalinga Super Cup champions, finish second, then a third-place finish will be enough for BFC.

This makes BFC's penultimate match against current leaders Jamshedpur FC on May 9 crucial. However, that match is not on coach Munoz's mind yet.

"It's too early to think about that match," said Munoz at the pre-match press conference. "Right now, we are only concerned about Odisha FC as it's one match at a time for us."

Odisha FC, for that matter, are marred with financial struggles due to the conflicts of Indian football from earlier in the season. Forcing them to play with just one foreign player in the season while an ongoing tussle with their state government has forced them to play their matches in Margao.

BFC are favourites to grab all three points against such opponents; the only caveat is that they have to do so without their star wingback Nikhil Poojari, who suffered a hamstring injury in the last match and is yet to start training.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/18/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004 and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 693/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Building bearing No.25 Old No.1/1, Lady Curzon Road, Shivaji Nagar, Bengaluru having PID No.79-46-25. Measuring East to West 110 ft and North to South 20 ft and aggregating 2200 sq.ft. Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/j3SWPPffpfBw3XNM6 Latitude and Longitude: 12°58'51.0"N 77°36'15.3"E	8,72,95,500/-	87,30,000/-	8,73,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
14th May 2026, 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-	22nd May 2026 11:00am to 01:00 pm	26th May 2026 Before 5.00 pm	29th May 2026 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Date: 30.04.2026
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/467/NR/2026-27

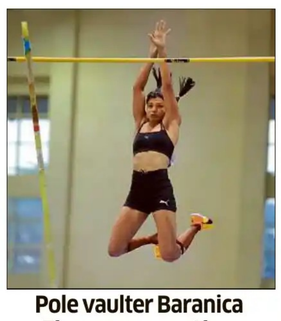
Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"Just happy that we won. When I was walking back I saw my coach shaking his head about the way I got out. I was trying to hit it straight back over his (Shivang Kumar's) head. That's why I was disappointed.

ANGKRISH RAGHUVANSHI, KKR



Pole vaulter Baranica Elangovan reset her national record to 4.23m at the Indian Indoor Open in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. ODISHA SPORTS

Baranica improves her national record

BENGALURU, DHNS: Baranica Elangovan's continued pole vault dominance at the inaugural Indian Indoor Open combined events & pole vault competition as the Tamil Nadu athlete bettered her own national record at 4.23 metres in Bhubaneswar on Sunday.

The 29-year-old pole vaulter broke the national record (4.22) at the same venue -- Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium -- at the inaugural National Indoor Championships this March. Earlier on Day 1, Kuldeep Kumar broke the men's national record with an attempt of 5.41.

MP's Nitika Akare took the second spot ahead of Kerala's Blessy Kunjumon (both cleared 3.90) by virtue of fewer attempts.

Meanwhile, Kerala's Thowfeeq N, representing NCOE Trivandrum, won the men's heptathlon event with a total score of 5350 points ahead of Army's Usaid Khan (5288) and Odisha's Jashbir Nayak (5250).

Odisha's experienced Purnima Hembram aggregated 3835 points to win the women's pentathlon while Uttarakhand's Isha Chander Prakash (3671) and Bidisha Kundu of West Bengal (3600) occupied the remaining podium places.

Results: Men: Heptathlon: Thowfeeq N (NCOT) 5350 points, 1; Usaid Khan (Arm) 5288, 2; Jashbir Nayak (Odi) 5250, 3.

Women: Pole vault: Baranica Elangovan (TN) 4.23m, 1; Nikita Akare (MP) 3.90, 2; Blessy Kunjumon (Ker) 3.90, 3.

Pentathlon: Purnima Hembram (Odi) 3835 pts, 1; Isha Prakash (Utt) 3671, 2; Bidisha Kundu (WB) 3600, 3.

Sneha & sprinters clock fastest Indian timing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka sprinter S Sneha featured prominently as India's 4x100m mixed relay team set a national record on Day 2 of the World Relays Championships in Gaborone, Botswana on Sunday.

Clocking 41.35s, the quartet of Ragul Kumar, Nithya Gandhe, Animesh Kujur and Sneha finished sixth, improving on their Day 1 baton mishap, but fell short of World Championships qualification.

The rest of the campaign, however, was marred by repeated baton errors. The men's 4x400m relay failed to finish after Amoj Jacob pulled up mid-race, while the mixed 4x400m unit ended last with a slower time than Day 1.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Mumbai Indians vs Lucknow Super Giants **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Chelsea vs Nottingham Forest **(7:30 pm)**, Everton vs Man City **(12:30 am, Tuesday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

La Liga: Sevilla FC vs Real Sociedad **(12:30 am, Tuesday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ISL: Odisha FC vs Bengaluru FC **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

IFL: Real Kashmir FC vs Namdhari Sports Club **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Knights snap SRH streak

Spinners Varun, Narine star in comprehensive 7-wkt victory

HYDERABAD, PTI

A resurgent Varun Chakravarthy and milestone man Sunil Narine were instrumental in Kolkata Knight Riders' comprehensive seven-wicket victory that snapped Sunrisers Hyderabad's five-match winning streak in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

After Chakravarthy (3/36) and Narine (2/31) played major roles in bowling out SRH for 165 in 19 overs, KKR chased down the target with 10 balls to spare to notch their third win on the trot.

This was leg-spinner Chakravarthy's fourth successive match in which he took at least two wickets while veteran off-spinner Narine joined an exclusive three-member 200-wicket club in the IPL.

Playing his 197th match, Narine, who also opened KKR's bowling, joined pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar (215 from 199 matches) and spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (228 from 182 matches) in the elite group.

Chasing a small target, KKR lost Impact Sub Finn Allen in the fourth over for a quick-fire 39 off 13 balls when the team score was 49 but captain Ajinkya Rahane (43 off 36 balls) and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (59 off 47 balls) held the innings together with a second wicket stand of 84 runs from 11 overs.

Rahane, who scored just one half-century in the previous eight matches at the top of the order, hit four boundaries and a six, while Raghuvanshi struck five boundaries and two sixes.

Rinku Singh struck the winning runs -- a four -- as he remained not out on 22 off 11 balls.

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Abhishek Sharma c Green b Tyagi 15, Travis Head c Green b Chakaravarthy 61, Ishan Kishan c Roy b Narine 42, Heinrich Klaasen c Powell b Green 11, R Smaran c Rahane b Chakaravarthy 4, Aniket Verma c Rahane b Chakaravarthy 6, Salil Arora b Narine 2, Pat Cummins c&b Roy 10, Shivang Kumar c Raghuvanshi b Arora 1, Harshal Patel c Arora b Tyagi 6, Eshan Malinga (not out) 2. Extras (B-1, W-4) 5. **TOTAL (all out, 19 overs) 165.**

Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-105, 3-117, 4-122, 5-135, 6-139, 7-148, 8-156, 9-156.

Bowling: Sunil Narine 4-0-31-2, Vaibhav Arora 3-0-25-1, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-30-2, Cameron Green 3-0-34-1, Varun Chakaravarthy 4-0-36-3, Anukul Roy 1-0-8-1.

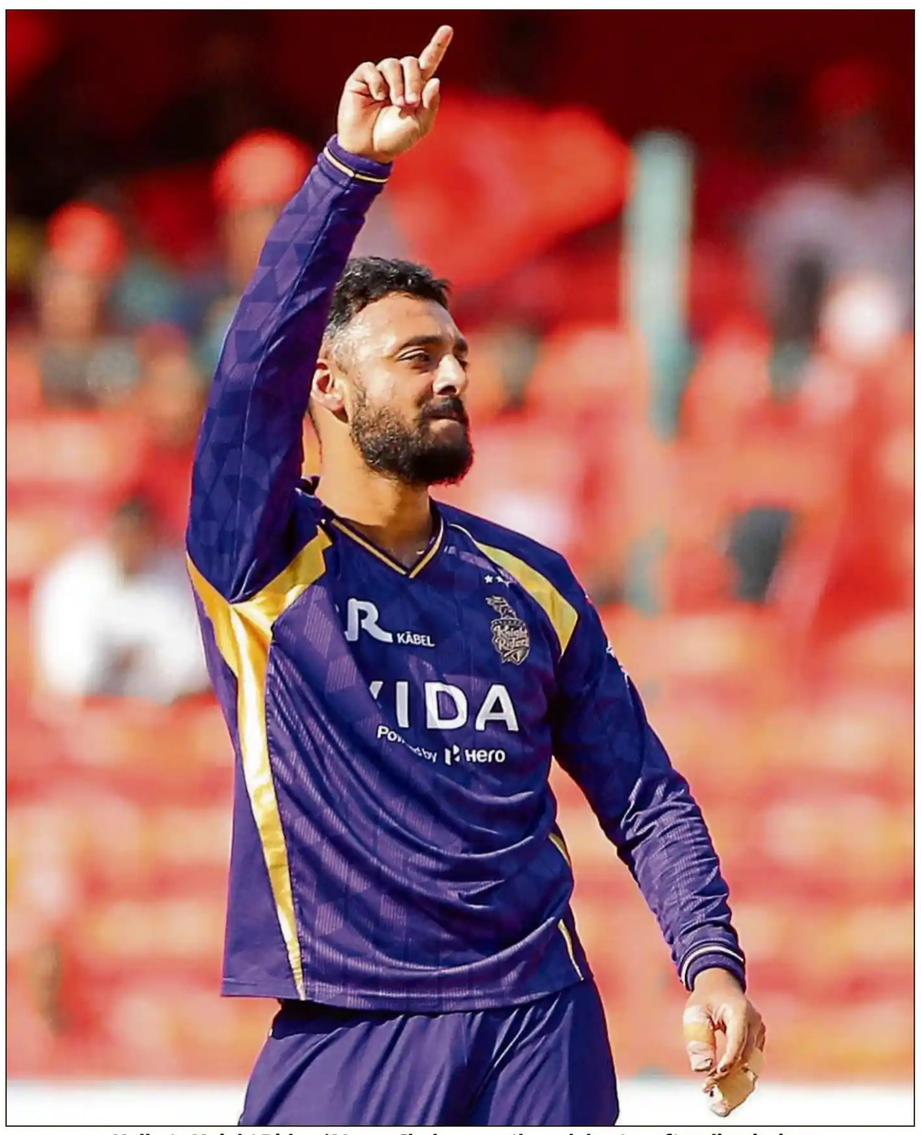
KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: Ajinkya Rahane c Smaran b Sakib 43, Finn Allen c Klaasen b Cummins 29, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Malinga b Shivang 59, Rinku Singh (not out) 22, Cameron Green (not out) 3. Extras (LB-1, W-12) 13. **TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 18.2 overs) 169.**

Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-133, 3-151.

Bowling: Abhishek Sharma 2-0-14-0, Pat Cummins 4-0-47-1, Eshan Malinga 3.2-0-42-0, Shivang Kumar 4-0-31-1, Harshal Patel 2-0-17-0, Sakib Hussain 3-0-17-1.

Result: KKR won by 7 wkts.

PoM: Varun Chakaravarthy



Kolkata Knight Riders' Varun Chakaravarthy celebrates after dismissing Sunrisers Hyderabad's Travis Head on Sunday. REUTERS

Earlier, opting to bat, SRH were in their usual menacing batting form, reaching 77 for 1 after Powerplay and 107 for 2 at the halfway mark, courtesy Travis Head's (61 off 28 balls) second consecutive half-century.

But they collapsed spectacularly in the second half of their innings, losing nine wickets in 10 overs for the addition of 60 runs. This was the first time SRH were bowled out in the IPL 2026.

Kartik Tyagi chipped in with 2/30. Head's innings was laced with nine fours and three sixes, and he was well supported by Ishan Kishan (42 off 29 balls). This was the third successive match SRH had scored more than 100 runs inside first 10 overs.

MI, LSG in clash of laggards

MUMBAI, PTI

Embattled LSG skipper Rishabh Pant will be eyeing a morale-lifting knock when they take on Mumbai Indians on Monday. REUTERS

LIVE 7:30 PM

Struggling former champions Mumbai Indians will hope their embattled stars Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav come good in a clash against bottom-ranked Lucknow Super Giants even though the chances of qualifying for the playoffs in this edition of IPL has evaporated for good.

Pandya (146 runs and 4 wickets) and Suryakumar (186) have had forgettable campaigns so far, which has hampered MI's journey, more so in the absence of former skipper Rohit Sharma, who remains on a comeback trail after a hamstring injury earlier this season.

Only two wins in nine matches have consigned the five-time IPL winners Mumbai Indians to the penultimate spot in the points table.

While their hopes to remain in contention for the IPL playoffs are all but over, there still remains an outside chance of qualification.

But before all that, MI will have to have their Indian stars doing the heavy lifting, which has not been the case so far.

Pandya's leadership has come into focus as MI have endured a tough campaign. Tactically, he has been way off the mark.

The batters have collectively misfired, and so have their bowlers, but in between have been Pandya's ordinary performances both with the bat and the ball, combined with certain calls on the field which did not yield desired results.

LSG skipper Rishabh Pant desperately appealed for a break for his side, which has lost five matches on the trot to slip to the bottom of the points table. LSG began with a loss in the first match and they've not looked the part since then barring a couple off wins.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	9	6	2	1	13	0.855
Royal Challengers	9	6	3	0	12	1.420
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	6	4	0	12	0.644
Rajasthan Royals	10	6	4	0	12	0.510
Gujarat Titans	10	6	4	0	12	-0.147
Chennai Super Kings	9	4	5	0	8	0.005
Delhi Capitals	9	4	5	0	8	-0.895
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	5	1	7	-0.539
Mumbai Indians	9	2	7	0	4	-0.803
Lucknow Super Giants	8	2	6	0	4	-1.106

Gujarat Titans rake up a storm

Sudharsan's 57, pacers' punch give Gill's men 4-wkt win over Punjab Kings

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Sai Sudharsan's cool-headed 57 alongside the storm kicked up by pacers Mohammed Siraj, Jason Holder and Kagiso Rabada carried Gujarat Titans to a last over four-wicket victory over Punjab Kings in their IPL match here on Sunday.

On a slightly slow pitch, the Titans needed a level-headed chase of 164, and Sudharsan did precisely during his 41-ball knock.

A similar innings from debutant Suryansh Shedge's energetic 57 had helped PBKS to post 163 for nine despite Siraj (2/28) and Holder (4/24) reducing them to 47 for five in 8.4 overs.

But it was Sudharsans' turn to stand on the winners' podium in the battle of half-centurions on the night. The result meant that GT stayed at five in the table but their points tally swelled to 12, while PBKS also maintained their top spot with 13 points for now.

After skipper Shubman Gill fell early to Arshdeep Singh, Sudharsan took control of the chase and added 53 runs for the second wicket with Jos Buttler.

Buttler (25) was the more dominant partner, dismissing Marco Jansen and Xavier Bartlett for a six each, the second one being an audacious scoop over the wicketkeeper.

But the England batter could not clear the infield off Vyshak Vijayakumar, giving a catch to Shreyas Iyer.

But Sudharsan continued undeterred and reached his third fifty of this IPL season off 37 balls.

Pacer Jason Holder's 4/24 played a crucial role in Gujarat Titans' victory over table-toppers Punjab Kings in Ahmedabad on Sunday. AFP

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS: Priyansh Arya c Sindhu b Siraj 2, Prabhsimran Singh c Suthar b Rabada 15, Cooper Connolly c Buttler b Siraj 0, Shreyas Iyer b Holder 19, Nehal Wadhera c Buttler b Holder 0, Suryansh Shedge c Buttler b Rabada 57, Marcus Stoinis c Sundar b Holder 40, Marco Jansen c Gill b Rashid 20, Xavier Bartlett b Holder 0, Vijaykumar Vyshak (not out) 1,Arshdeep Singh (not out) 1. Extras: (LB-1, W-7) 8. **TOTAL (for 9 wkts, 20 overs) 163.**

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-2, 3-35, 4-36, 5-47, 6-126, 7-141, 8-141, 9-162.

Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 4-0-28-2, Kagiso Rabada 4-1-22-2, Jason Holder 4-0-24-4, Arshad Khan 3-0-29-0, Rashid Khan 4-0-32-1, Manav Suthar 1-0-27-0.

GUJARAT TITANS: Sai Sudharsan c Bartlett b Vyshak 57, Shubman Gill c Connolly b Arshdeep 5, Jos Buttler c Shreyas b Vyshak 26, Nishant Sindhu c Vyshak b Stoinis 15, Washington Sundar (not out) 40, Rahul Tewatia c Bartlett b Jansen 2, Jason Holder c Connolly b Arshdeep 5, Arshad Khan (not out) 8. Extras: (LB-2, W-7) 9. **TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 19.5 overs) 167.**

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-69, 3-94, 4-124, 5-140, 6-152.

Bowling: Xavier Bartlett 4-0-38-0, Arshdeep Singh 4-0-24-2, Marco Jansen 4-0-33-1,Vijaykumar Vyshak 4-0-31-2, Marcus Stoinis 2.5-0-26-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 1-0-13-0.

Result: GT won by 4 wickets.

PoM: Jason Holder.

Mittal family buys 75% stake in RR for over Rs 15k cr

BENGALURU, DHNS

Well-known industrialist Lakshmi N Mittal and his son Aditya Mittal on Sunday announced they have reached a "definitive agreement" to acquire a majority stake in Rajasthan Royals, in partnership with Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla and Manoj Badale.

The consortium led by the Mittal family paid USD 1.65 billion (approximately Rs 15,600 crore) to take acquisition of Rajasthan Royals—the inaugural IPL champions in 2008. The news comes after the Kal Somani-Rob Walton-Sheila Ford Hamp consortium pulled out of the race.

The transaction consideration represents the enterprise value of Rajasthan Royals' men's franchise, Paarl Royals and Barbados Royals. Following the completion of the deal, the Mittal family will own approximately 75 per cent of Rajasthan Royals, with Adar Poonawalla holding around 18 per cent. The remaining seven per cent will be held by approved existing investors, including Badale. The restructured Rajasthan Royals board will comprise Lakshmi N Mittal, Aditya Mittal, Vanisha Mittal-Bhatia, Poonawalla and Badale.

The completion of the deal is subject to customary closing conditions, including approvals from the BCCI, the CCI, the IPL Governing Council and other applicable regulatory authorities. The deal is expected to close in the third quarter (Q3) of 2026.

Earlier, the US-based consortium led by Somani had offered USD 1.63 billion but it didn't pass due diligence due to multiple issues, as per sources.

Lakshmi Mittal, who was born in Sadulpur in North of Rajasthan, said: "I love cricket and my family is from Rajasthan, so there is no IPL team that I would rather be part of than the Rajasthan Royals."

Mittal's son Aditya said: "The Royals is well known for developing new talent — that resonates deeply with me, and we are determined that legacy will continue, harnessing the best of talent in the world for future success. "I want to thank everyone who has helped build the Rajasthan Royals into a global sporting institution — the players, coaches, leadership team, and above all the fans."

Poonawalla, who had earlier unsuccessfully bid for RCB, said: "I am delighted to partner with Aditya Mittal on this investment. Rajasthan Royals is a premier IPL franchise with a strong legacy, and I look forward to supporting its continued growth and long-term success."

Sinner downs Zverev to win Madrid Open

Jannik Sinner

MADRID, AP

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner cruised past Alexander Zverev in the final of the Madrid Open to win the tournament for the first time and become the first man to win five consecutive Masters 1000 events.

Italy's Sinner beat the third-ranked Zverev of Germany 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday for his 23rd straight win. He had already won Master 1000 tournaments in Monte Carlo, Miami and Indian Wells this year, and in Paris last year.

Zverev had previously lost to Sinner in the semifinals of each of those tournaments. He won in Madrid in 2018 and 2021, and was runner-up to Carlos Alcaraz in 2022.

In the women's final on Saturday, Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine beat Mirra Andreeva of Russia 7-5, 6-3.

Coach Amol rues Amanjot's absence from T20 WC team

MUMBAI, PTI : India women's head coach Amol Muzumdar on Sunday said it will be difficult for his side to replace all-rounder Amanjot Kaur but added the team is on the right track for next month's T20 World Cup in England with a preparatory camp in Bengaluru.

The Indian team is scheduled to prepare at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru from May 10-16 before flying out to England for a long haul, which includes three T20Is against the hosts before the T20 World Cup.

"She is injured and it is very difficult to replace somebody like Amanjot. She has been doing consistently well for India," Muzumdar told reporters here.

Dhamne puts up a valiant fight

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a battle between unseeded finalists, it was the older and experienced Buvaysar Gadamauri of Belgium who edged India's young hope Manas Dhamne to win the ATP Challenger in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Sunday.

The 18-year-old Dhamne, who made it to his maiden ATP Challenger final this week, went head-to-head for most of the one hour and 51 minutes contest before the 25-year-old Gadamauri held his fort to secure a 7-6 (6), 6-4 victory and capture his first title.

"It was quite a good match. I had some chances and some good breaks, especially in the first set," said Dhamne during an online interaction after his runners-up finish.

"In the tie-break, I was 4-1 up but tennis works like this. In the second set I played a couple of loose games on my serve. Yeah, but lots of learning from today's match and I hope to fix them in the next tournament," added the left-hander from Pune who trains at the Piatti Tennis Centre in Bordighera, Italy.

Manas Dhamne poses with his runners-up trophy at the ATP Challenger in Shymkent. KAZAKH TENNIS FEDERATION

As Dhamne assessed, there was little separating the two. The opening set saw both opponents hold their respective serves before trading a break each in the ninth and 10th games. At 6-6 in the tie-breaker, Dhamne lost a point on serve, putting Gadamauri a step ahead. Capitalising on the opportunity, the Belgian served to win the first set.

The second was more of a see-saw battle. With multiple breaks of serves, the world No. 357 Gadamauri upped the ante towards the latter part to keep the 444-ranked Dhamne at bay and close out the match.

The Indian youngster's run to the title round will help him break into the top-400 for the first time, which will give him a new career-high ranking when the ATP releases a revised list on Monday.

"The main goal is to keep improving as a person and a player. If I do that the ranking will take care of itself," offered Dhamne, who will play an ITF 25K in Santa Margherita di Pula, Italy, followed by an ATP Challenger in Oeiras, Portugal, in the next two weeks.

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